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NEARBY
'Fire victims took unauthorised route'

CHENNAI
 Responding to a calling attention motion in the Assembly on Monday, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami said those who were killed in the forest fire at Kurangani in Theni district were part of a team that took a route "not authorised for trekking." The team also spent a night at a tea estate without permission.
TAMIL NADU • PAGE 6

Court irked by use of orderlies in police dept.

CHENNAI
 Taking a serious note of media reports on lower grade policemen being engaged as orderlies in the residences of police officials, the Madras High Court on Monday directed the Home Secretary to explain how such a practice continued despite a ban imposed through a government order in 1979.
TAMIL NADU • PAGE 5



METROPOLIS • 8 PAGES

Protesting MPs again stall debate on no-trust motion

Speaker Sumitra Mahajan cites ongoing chaos in Lok Sabha to deny discussion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

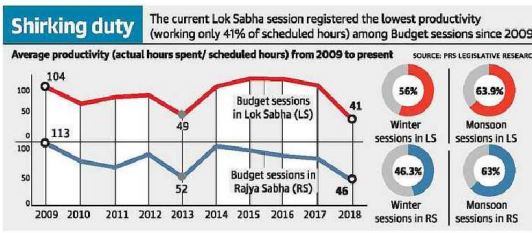
The Lok Sabha could not take up the two no-confidence motions against the NDA government yet again on Monday, and was adjourned by Speaker Sumitra Mahajan for the day minutes after noon.

With the Rajya Sabha, too, being adjourned for the day by Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu minutes after it met at 11 a.m., Parliament could not transact any business for yet another day in the second half of the budget session.

Parliament has been adjourned amid protests for 11 days in a row, ever since it met on March 5 after the recess.

Ms. Mahajan said at noon that she had received notices for no-confidence from Thota Narasimham (TDP), Jaidev Galla (TDP) and Y.V. Subba Reddy (YSR Congress Party) but added that the House should be in order for these to be taken up. "Since the House is not in order, I will not be able to bring it... I am sorry," she said before adjourning the proceedings for the day.

Just before the adjournment, Home Minister Rajnath Singh requested the cooperation of the members so that there could be a discussion on the no-confidence motion. Soon after papers were laid on the table amid slogan-shouting by unrelenting members, Mr. Singh said the government was ready to discuss any issue. He also requested all parties to cooperate so that discussion can be taken up.



Adjournment motion The Speaker also decided not to accept any adjournment motion. Interestingly, the Congress's Rajeev Satav had moved an adjournment motion for a discussion on special category status for Andhra Pradesh, an issue on which the TDP has broken with the NDA. Earlier, when the House met at 11 a.m., members of the TDP, the YSRCP, the AIADMK and the TRS protested in the Well.

TDP ignores invite With the TDP also boycotting a lunch given by the Speaker, no end to the impasse in Parliament seemed to be in sight. In the Rajya Sabha, TDP members and K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao of the Congress trooped into the Well, shouting slogans in support of special status for Andhra Pradesh, while DMK and AIADMK members raised the Cauvery water issue.

Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu repeatedly asked the members to allow the House to function and called for taking up listed zero hour mentions of issues of public importance.

But with protests continuing, he adjourned the House for the day within 10 minutes of the commencement of proceedings.

(With PTI inputs)
TDP SEES A DESIGN IN AIADMK, TRS PROTEST • PAGE 12

Lalu Prasad convicted in 4th fodder scam case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president Lalu Prasad was on Monday convicted in the fourth fodder scam case by the special CBI court in Ranchi. Mr. Prasad is accused in a total of six fodder scam cases: five in Jharkhand and one in Bihar. He has been convicted in three cases and has been serving jail terms since December 23, 2017.

On Friday, the CBI court will pronounce the quantum of sentence in the fourth case: RC 38A/1996, related to the fraudulent withdrawal of ₹3.13 crore from the Dumka treasury between 1995-96. The hearing concluded on March 5.

Arrives from hospital The RJD chief was brought to the court from the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital, and left after a brief appearance.

Mr. Prasad was admitted to the RIMS after he complained of chest pain last Saturday.

Following tests, doctors said his condition was now stable.

Mr. Prasad is currently lodged in the Birsa Munda Central Jail in Ranchi.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Mamata, KCR move to form federal front

Telangana CM for 'alternative agenda'



Joining hands: Mamata Banerjee and K. Chandrashekar Rao speaking to journalists in Kolkata on Monday.

SHEEY SAHAY SINGH
 KOLKATA

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the State Secretariat here on Monday. Both leaders later said the meeting had initiated the process of forming a 'federal front' for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

While Mr. Rao was clear that the front would be a platform of non-Bharatiya Janata Party and non-Congress parties, Ms. Banerjee avoided a direct answer to the question and remained non-committal about leaving the Congress out. They did not give the name of the front.

Emphasising the need for "an alternative agenda, an alternative development and an alternative political force" in the country, the

Chief Minister of Telangana said the "routine kind of administration," as performed by both the Congress and the BJP, had not worked well for the country.

Preliminary meeting "We are trying to bring in a real federal front for the country. This will be a like-minded group of political leaders. Today is just the beginning. Most of the things, we will make clear when other leaders sit together and discuss," Mr. Rao said after the meeting with Ms. Banerjee, which lasted two hours.

Describing the meeting as a "good beginning," Ms. Banerjee said there was a need for the federal front because "if the States are strong, the nation will be strong."

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Junaid's father moves SC seeking CBI probe

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday admitted an appeal by the father of 16-year-old Junaid Khan, who was murdered by a mob on a Mathura-bound train, for a CBI probe and stayed the criminal trial in a local court.

A Bench, led by Justice Kurian Joseph, issued notice to the CBI and the Haryana government on Mr. Jalaluddin's petition, which alleged a concerted attempt to cover up the true nature of the crime committed against his son.

Junaid, his brother and

two others were returning to Faridabad after making purchases for Eid celebrations when they were accosted by a group of men on the train.

He suffered multiple stab wounds and bled to death.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court rejected Mr. Jalaluddin's plea to transfer the

case to the CBI.

It said there was nothing in it of "international and national ramifications," which would force the court to use its extraordinary powers to order a CBI probe, the petition said.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Will wait till March 29 for CMB, says OPS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 CHENNAI

Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam on Monday rejected Opposition leader and DMK working president M.K. Stalin's suggestion to vote against the BJP government at the Centre in the no-confidence motion moved by the Telugu Desam Party.

Speaking in the Assembly, Mr. Panneerselvam contended that the motion had nothing to do with the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board, and that it would be better to wait for the Supreme Court-mandated deadline to end before taking any step in this regard.

In his speech, Mr. Stalin said the AIADMK government should advise its 37 Lok Sabha MPs to vote against the BJP government to bring pressure to bear on the Centre, even though the motion was unlikely to succeed.

In response, Mr. Panneerselvam explained that the Supreme Court had granted six weeks to constitute the Cauvery Management Board, adding that Tamil Nadu should wait till March 29.

"If it [formation of the board] does not happen [by then], we will again convene an all-party meeting to chalk out the next course of action," Mr. Panneerselvam said.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 7

VEL ARCH

The world becomes a better place when women
#GoSafeOutside

It is Hamam's endeavour to empower women to step outside without fear and achieve their dreams. Therefore Hamam has partnered with The Hindu to present 'World of Women', a platform that applauds women's courage and their contribution to society.

Ballroom, Taj Coromandel
 Nungambakkam, Chennai
 March 23rd | 6:30pm onwards

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*Based on independent studies and data sources relating to children ages 6-11.

Taking a toll

As the weather turns hotter, more people flock to Marina beach and take a dip in the sea, resulting in more drowning incidents



Horse patrol: 16 policemen patrol from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

REASONS FOR DROWNING

- 1 The sea is deep and dangerous between Kannagi statue and Napier Bridge
- 2 Policemen believe many victims get trapped in the wreckage of Stematia, a Liberian cargo ship that ran aground on the sands during a cyclone in 1966
- 3 In April and May, huge crowds, including tourists, throng the beach to beat the heat, and many of them are unaware of the danger

UNDER WATCH

- The Anna Square police patrol from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the stretch between the memorials and Kannagi Statue — a distance of approximately 1.5 km
- The Marina police patrol from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. between Light House and Kannagi Statue, a 3 km stretch

There are two all-terrain vehicles each for the Marina and Anna Square police stations



ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

DEATHS ON STRETCH COVERED BY THE ANNA SQUARE POLICE

2018 (till date) 11
2017 22

Of those who died, seven were in the age group of 14 to 20

DEATHS ON STRETCH COVERED BY THE MARINA POLICE

2018 2
2017 10

The lurking danger on the Marina

Watch towers, life guards can help reduce drowning deaths, say police officers

VIVEK NARAYANAN
CHENNAI

Come summer, Marina Beach becomes a hotspot of Chennaiites fleeing the heat. The waters of the Bay of Bengal are inviting and they are tempted to take a dip. That keeps the policemen on tenterhooks since drowning incidents show an uptick just when the mercury level soars.

"In 2018 till date, a total of 11 cases of drowning were reported in the Anna Square police station limits. Out of this, seven victims were in the age group of 14 - 20," says a police officer. In 2017, a total of 22 drowning incidents were registered in the same station.

Even last week, two teenagers drowned in the sea in Anna Square police station limits, when they went for a swim along with their friends. Their bodies were



Dangerous dip: In a recent incident, two teenagers drowned when they went for a swim. • FILE PHOTO

washed ashore.

Meanwhile in the Marina police station, two drowning incidents have been reported in 2018. In 2017, it was 10.

"The sea is dangerous between Kannagi statue and

Napier Bridge," said a police officer.

In February, S. Prajesh, 16-year-old hockey player from Coonoor, drowned in Marina Beach. Following this incident, a public interest litigation was filed in the

Madras High Court and the Court directed the State government to consider the possibility of setting up temporary watch towers with materials such as bamboo on all beaches, apart from engaging the services of expert swimmers, to prevent drowning. It also sought a report by April 2 on steps taken so far to prevent deaths by drowning.

"There are four all-terrain vehicles patrolling the shore and the mounted patrol chases away people entering the sea for a swim. Despite this, people enter the sea and pay no heed to our warning. They don't realise it is dangerous," said a police officer from Anna Square police station.

When crowds throng He said that drowning is more in April and May as a huge crowd throngs the

beach to beat the heat and enjoy the summer holidays. "We want the government to allocate funds and employ life guards in the beach. Permanent watch towers should also be erected," the police officer added.

Ship wreckage

Some policemen believe that many get trapped in the wreckage of Stematia, a Liberian cargo ship, which ran aground on the sands behind the Labour Statue following a cyclone in 1966.

Rajadurai from Gingee, who visited the beach along with his family on Wednesday said that the police should first replace the warning boards.

"Some of them have faded. The boards should also carry pictorial warning to create fear among youngsters," he said.

Residential unit sales plummeting since 2013-14

Growing peripheral areas worst hit, says consultant

SANGEETHA KANDAVEL
CHENNAI

Residential market trends over the last five years across India, including Chennai, indicate that 2013-14 was the year when the sector looked vibrant.

After that, sales began plummeting and there are no clear revival signs.

Chennai saw average sales decline by 45%. In 2013, Chennai sold 24,700 units, and the following year, the number came down to 23,000 units. Only around 13,100 units were sold in 2017.

In India, residential unit sales have dropped by around 40% from the average of 2013-2014 to 2017. An analysis done by ANAROCK property consultants shows that in the last five years, an average of 3.3 lakh units were sold annually.

Thereafter, with too many project launches, unsold inventory began piling up across top seven cities.

Older areas stable

Commenting on the Chennai market, Anuj Puri, chairman, ANAROCK property consultants, said, "Unlike some other cities, Chennai's real estate market has many of the industry fundamentals firmly in place, with the IT/ITES, manufacturing and

Declining demand

Unsold inventory has piled up across the top seven cities of India

Region	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% change (2017 vs 2014)
Delhi	1,18,000	1,14,500	76,700	47,900	37,600	-67
Mumbai	67,500	77,300	65,300	69,600	52,600	-32
Bengaluru	47,500	53,700	64,500	43,300	42,200	-21
Pune	36,400	46,200	45,700	31,200	29,300	-37
Hyderabad	11,600	11,300	16,000	12,500	15,100	34
Chennai	24,700	23,000	24,300	17,700	13,100	-43
Kolkata	12,500	16,700	15,300	16,800	12,900	-23

Source: ANAROCK Property Consultants

the services sector continuing to contribute to its overall growth."

According to him, the areas most affected by the slowdown were growing peripheral areas like OMR and coast-facing areas. But the established areas are stable. "For these reasons, Chennai's market recovery depends on the resolution of these factors," he added.

Several factors

During 2015-16, housing sales dropped significantly nationally. On an average, only 2.7 lakh units were sold across the top seven cities during this period, recording a significant drop of 17% from the average sales of 2013-14.

Mr. Puri said, "When demonetisation hit the nation

during the fourth quarter of 2016, the situation turned from grave to savage. The real estate sector was battered with RERA and GST, which severely shook up the sector."

"The new market dynamics and strengthened regulatory environment have now more or less eliminated this unwholesome dynamic," Mr. Puri said.

"Reduced buyer confidence due to irrational project delays and diversion of capital also contributed significantly to the decline in sales in some parts of the country. RERA is gradually reversing this unwholesome aspect; however, our cities' real estate markets will continue to pay the price of speculative activity for some more time to come," he said.

More passport seva kendras across State soon

Applicants will be able to fix appointments at new locations

K. LAKSHMI
CHENNAI

In a few months, residents of Dindigul and Ramanathapuram will not have to travel long distances to Madurai or Tiruchi for passport-related services. The Department of Posts is identifying places to open more Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) across the State.

The department has partnered with the Union Ministry of External Affairs for passport-related services in places without such facilities. Residents who apply for passports online through the passport portal may schedule appointments at these kendras to complete the procedure. Passports will be delivered to them through speed post, say officials.



Tamil Nadu has eight passport seva kendras. • FILE PHOTO

cials of the postal department.

Some of the Post Office Passport Seva Kendras to be opened soon are in Ramanathapuram, Dindigul, Avinashi and Rasipuram. "We are planning to open similar facilities in Tiruppur or Perambalur and Pudukottai or

Aranthangi depending on the availability of sites," said R. Anand, Postmaster General, Chennai City Region.

The Postal Department started offering the service from March 2017 and Tamil Nadu has eight such kendras. Salem was the first post office to have a POPSK.

Non-governmental service doctors to approach court

They are against extra marks in PG admission for those in government service

R. SUJATHA
CHENNAI

The Non-Governmental Service Doctors Association has decided to move court, seeking to quash the State government's decision to give additional marks to doctors in government service in post-graduate admission.

The government had constituted a committee following a Supreme Court directive after non-service doctors protested the award of additional marks and the quota for doctors in government service in PG admission.

The committee's report had suggested incentivising the service of the doctors in government with additional marks, depending on the remoteness of the health centre. The committee classified 16 districts (2,300 centres) as being in difficult and remote areas that made it hard for doctors to serve.

The association is contesting the report by stating that according to the National Health Systems Re-



The government had constituted a panel after doctors protested against the quota for PG admission.

source Centre, only 72 primary health centres could be classified as remote or difficult to access.

Association secretary N. Kartikeyan said, "We are filing a case against the committee's report as it is a violation of the Supreme Court order.

The State government drafted an order on March 15 to award incentive marks covering 2,300 areas when even the State's 7th annual pay commission report has accepted that only 72

centres are remote or in difficult terrain."

The association says the order violates the Medical Council of India guidelines and the NHSC criteria, adding that Haryana and Rajasthan had accepted the MCI and NHSC criteria.

Creamy layer

"It is to suit the State's requirement that the classification has been made. There are difficult-to-reach PHCs even in districts not classified for awarding marks," said K. Senthil, president of the Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association.

The TNGDA supports additional incentive marks and supports 50% quota in the State for service candidates. It wants district-wise classification as, in certain places, the less difficult districts interior places have been ignored.

"Though the association will not go to court, individual candidates may," said Dr. Senthil.

"When I joined PG as a

non-service candidate 30 years ago, I got the specialty I wanted. Even in the 1990s, no one went to court. The incentives are necessary as in an epidemic we have to slog and work even on holidays. It is wrong to deny incentives to these service doctors. Non-service doctors are from creamy layer who can afford to take leave to prepare for the entrance exam," he noted.

Seat matrix

Three days ago the Director General of Health Services announced that registration for PG under the All India Quota seats for 50% seats was open but the seat matrix has not been uploaded yet.

Jaya Saigal, a student from Tiruvananthapuram aspiring for a seat in MD general medicine, said: "Since Saturday, the server is down. They have provided four numbers but there is no response. Today is the third day and the schedule is only for six days."

Dak adalat on April 3

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

The Postal department will conduct a dak adalat at the Anna Road HPO on April 3 at 4 p.m. Residents may send their complaints related to postal services in the north division or before March 23.

A Tamil Nadu circle dak adalat will be organised at the Chief Postmaster General office, Anna Salai on April 17.

Customers may send their grievances to S.Vasudevan, Assistant Director (SB & FS), Office of CPMG on or before April 6 or mail to pg.tn@indiaipost.gov.in, with details.

Applications invited from artists for financial aid

Those in the age group of 16-30 can apply

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nadakam Mandram has invited applications from young artists in the age group of 16-30 years for financial assistance for performances in various art forms. Application forms can

be collected free of cost from the Member-Secretary, The Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nadakam Mandram, 31, Ponni, P.S. Kumaraswami Raja Salai, Chennai-600028. For details call 044-24937471. Filled-in applications can be sent before April 18 at 5 p.m.

44 students caught cheating

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

As many as 44 students were caught cheating during the physics and economics Plus-Two Board examinations on Monday.

The Directorate of Government Examinations said 18 of them were private candidates.

Examiners had detected 16 students copying in centres across Tiruvannamalai alone on Monday during the two exams.

The students have a gap of six days before they take up their next examination on March 26. The Plus-Two Board exams will end on April 6.

PG teachers to boycott Plus One evaluation

Say their duty schedule extends till May 19, leaving them with less than two weeks of vacation

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Post-Graduate Teachers Association has said its members would boycott the evaluation of Plus One examination papers this year.

K.P.O. Suresh, State president of the association, said the schedule for the evaluation of SSLC, Class 12 and Class 11 papers extended till May 19, which would leave them with less than two weeks of vacation.

"Since the Directorate of Government Examinations has drawn up a schedule to accommodate the evaluation of three Board examinations, it has extended the work till



Punishing schedule: The teachers have submitted a petition to the School Education Department. • FILE PHOTO

May 19. Teachers will be forced to work in peak summer and will not get a proper break before the schools reopen in June," Mr. Suresh said.

For Classes 11 and 12, the evaluation of language papers alone takes up to two weeks and all other subjects take a week. In a petition to the School Education Department,

the teachers association had asked for the evaluation of language papers to begin as soon as students finished those exams in mid-March. "For the last few years, we have been forced to wait till all the exams get over to begin evaluation and, with the addition of the Class 11 Boards, this has extended well into the middle of May," said R. Perumalsamy, Chennai district president of the association.

Refresher course

This year, teachers had to take classes for NEET coaching every weekend after the Board exams. "Following this, many of us have been asked to

attend a refresher course to be conducted by the School Education Department to get ourselves acquainted with the new syllabus being implemented from the coming academic year," he said.

The members of the association said that while they have approached the School Education Department and submitted their petition, they have been told that the schedule had already been fixed. "While we are ready to take on additional responsibilities, we need a proper break," Mr. Suresh said.

The association has also additionally suggested that the Class 11 evaluation could be carried out in June.

CINEMA • ARTS • EVENTS

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

Nadapansana 24417594
Today 5.00 p.m. Sweta Balasubramaniam - Vocal with TV Sankaran & Kishore Ramesh
6.40 p.m. Archana & Aarthi - Vocal with B. Ananthakrishnan, Raghuvaran & Hariharasarma at Raga Sudha Hall, Luz. All are welcome.

PARAMPARA
Tel: 9444052850
with KNA today 6.15 p.m. at Kalpana Nagar Association, Mandaveli
Manda Sudharani, Mysore Srikanth, N.C. Bharadwaj & Krishna

Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Aesthina Vidwan Sri B. Umashankar Vocal, Sri M. Vijaya Ganesh Violin, Saleem S. Ranganathan Mridangam.

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TALK BY
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For details contact: 184 107 2343
Naadonum Nalladu Selivom

MISCELLANEOUS

RASIKA RANJANI SABIA
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24.05.2018-Saturday-7.00 p.m. "MIRACLE ON WHEELS" - Innovative wheelchair dance production by differently abled. Tickets Rs. 500/1000/3000/5000 - <http://youtube/78Q0dQntc>. Website: rasikaranjani.sabia.org.

ASTHIKA SAMAJAM (REGD.)
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Srinad Velmiki Ranganayam Discourse by Dhanal Sri Ramakrishnan and Smt. Perundevi from 20.03.18 to 25.03.18 between 6.30 p.m. & 8.30 p.m. at Samajam Premises. All are welcome.

Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha (Regd.) Vani Mahal.
Ph: 28152166
Today 6.30 p.m. (till 25.03.2018) at Mahaswami Auditorium - SRI RAMANAVAMI FESTIVAL in Association with RAJALAKSHMI INSTITUTIONS (Dedicated to the memory of Sri P.A. Ramakrishnan). Upanayam on SRINAD RAMANAVAMI by Sri U.Ve. M.V. Ananthapadmanabhaachari. ALL ARE WELCOME.

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A year on, no sign of State Development Policy Council

Official says constitution of the body has not been finalised yet

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

The State government's decision to establish the State Development Policy Council in place of the State Planning Commission (SPC) remains a dead letter though a year has lapsed since it was announced.

While presenting the budget last year, the then Finance Minister D. Jayakumar had said the proposed body would "advise the Government on policy coherence and formulation of programmes to guide the development of the State."

The government's initiative came in the wake of the Central government disbanding the Union Planning Commission in 2014 and doing away with the distinction between Plan and Non-plan allocations in budget formulation, effective 2017-18.

With the assumption of office by the Jayalithaa regime in May 2016, the SPC became defunct. Santha Sheela Nair, who was Vice-Chairperson of the SPC till then, was made, around the time, Officer on Special Duty



Still on paper: Officials feel there is a need for a State-level think tank similar to NITI Aayog. • FILE PHOTO

at the office of the Chief Minister, looking after the implementation of the election manifesto of the ruling AIADMK.

In February 2017, two months after the demise of Jayalithaa, Ms. Nair quit.

The State government had welcomed the Centre's action of removing the distinction between Plan and Non-plan allocations as it was of the view that the budgetary process would get simplified, keeping the focus "firm-

ly" on the functional classification of expenditure. However, the need for a policy think tank was felt by the State government in the post-GST (Goods and Services Tax) era.

Need for watchdog

A senior administrator explained that with the GST in place, the scope has got narrowed for States to tinker with taxes, leaving only a marginal space for mobilising greater resources. So, the

government's attention should necessarily have to turn to how the available funds are being spent. The Policy Council can function as a watchdog or regulator in such a situation.

Saying that the constitution of the Policy Council has "not yet been finalised," an official of the Planning and Development Department said "various ideas and thoughts [on the matter] are under consideration of the government."

PIL brings to light cruel treatment of stray dogs

Judges include Blue Cross of India as a party to the case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Monday suo motu included Blue Cross of India as one of the respondents to a public interest litigation petition filed by an animal lover, alleging that mostly quacks and not veterinary surgeons perform birth control surgeries for stray dogs in Chennai city because the government pays just ₹125 per surgery.

The First Division Bench of Chief Justice Indra Banerjee and Justice Abdul Quddus felt that the animal welfare organisation should also be heard before any orders could be passed in the case. They ordered notices to BCI as well as Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner and Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) returnable by April 6.

Poor waste management

In his affidavit, S. Muralidharan of Kottur Gardens here, stated that stray dogs could be generally spotted in localities where they get ample food from roadside restaurants and garbage spills.



The cruel method followed to sterilise stray dogs has raised concern. • M. KARUNAKARAN

Therefore, inefficient garbage disposal was one of the prime reasons for increase in dog population in a particular area.

Claiming that the average lifespan of stray dogs had been reduced from 15 to 5 years, he said the reason was road accidents caused due to increase in number of motor vehicles, and also because of the diseases contracted by the dogs when they were taken to Animal Birth Control (ABC) pounds run by civic corporations.

He pointed out that culling of dogs was stopped in 1995 and since then, the civic bodies had begun to fol-

low 'Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release' policy. However, the cruel method followed to catch the stray dogs, the botched up surgeries and relocation of dogs in alien territories after the surgeries were a cause of concern, he added.

Stating that dogs were generally caught with iron ropes, instead of using nets, and stuffed into dog vans, the petitioner said that many of those animals suffer heart attack on the way to the pounds. "After reaching the ABC pounds, the suffering is accentuated. ABC pounds are nothing short of hell holes," the petitioner alleged.

He said that even puppies, pregnant and already sterilised dogs were taken to the ABC pounds and operated upon. Many a times, the drivers of dog vans and helpers at the pounds perform the surgeries without administering anaesthesia and by simply tying up the legs of the animals. Proper medications were also not provided to prevent the dogs from contracting diseases, his affidavit read.

Inspector told to pay ₹5 lakh compensation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Taking serious note of a police inspector threatening a man with a pistol and demanding a sum of ₹10 lakh to release him from a false theft case, the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has recommended a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the victim, besides disciplinary action against the policeman.

SHRC member D. Jayachandran recommended that the compensation amount be recovered from the inspector, and that criminal proceedings be initiated against him for implicating the complainant in a false theft case.

The complainant, G. Gopal of Denkanikottai in Krishnagiri district, claimed in his plea that Inspector Karunakaran, formerly attached to the Velayuthampalayam police station in Karur district, implicated him in a false theft case and arrested him. He also alleged that the respondent put a pistol to his forehead and threatened to kill him in an encounter, before demanding a sum of ₹5 lakh to release him from the case.

Peck of love



Tender moment: House sparrows spotted at a mango market in Vellore on Monday. As towns and cities develop at a rapid pace, the population of these birds is on the decline. World Sparrow Day is observed on March 20 every year. • C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

Plea alleges irregularities in e-tender to quarry sand

PWD decides to call for fresh tenders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Monday closed a writ petition which alleged irregularities by the Public Works Department (PWD) in calling e-tenders for engaging contractors to quarry sand from Aranar river in Uthukottai village in Tiruvallur district.

The case was closed after government counsel claimed that the officials had decided to call for fresh tenders.

'Favouring a select few' Justice K. Ravichandrababu recorded the submission made on behalf of the PWD and said that no further orders need to be passed on the petition filed by Chennai-based real estate dealer D.J. Senthil Kumar. The petitioner had claimed that many businessmen like him were unable to submit the tenders through the e-tender facility which, he alleged, had been created to favour a few.

In his affidavit, the peti-

tioner stated that he was a low-cost builder involved in providing affordable housing for the middle class. In order to ensure purchase of raw materials at bare minimum prices, he used to buy essential materials such as river sand directly from quarries operated by the PWD.

Recently, the PWD introduced e-tender system for quarrying as well as transporting the mineral. The Superintending Engineer of PWD had issued a notification on February 2 calling for online tenders on or before March 9. However, he claimed that he could not log into the e-tender page.

"I enquired my business circle and came to know that they too faced the same problem. But a particular group of persons who are closely related to the ruling party had taken part in the e-tender and had succeeded in getting the contract for quarrying of sand from Aranar river in Uthukottai village," his affidavit read.

Srirangam Srimad Andavan Swamigal passes away

He was 83 and was ailing for some time; mortal remains to be laid to rest at Srirangam today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI/TIRUCHI

Sri Ranga Ramanuja Maha Desikan of the Srirangam Srimad Andavan Ashram, reverentially referred to by devotees as Srimad Andavan Swamigal, passed away following a heart attack at a private hospital in Chennai on Monday. He was 83 and was ill for some time. His mortal remains were taken to Srirangam in Tiruchi.

Born on May 20, 1935, at Srimushnam in Cuddalore district, he took over as the 11th pontiff of the Srirangam 'Periyashramam' in 1989. An illustrious and revered

scholar in Sanskrit, the Swamigal went to Sri Ahobila Mutt Sanskrit College at Madurantakam at the age of 13 and thereafter to the Sanskrit Paatashala run by the Kaakumaani Adhikesavulu Chetty Trust, Chennai. Later, he studied at the Sriperumbudur Sanskrit College and emerged successful in the Nyaya Siromani Paribhaasha.

Worked as Tamil teacher

While working as a Sanskrit teacher in Andhra Pradesh, he learnt Telugu. He returned to Sriperumbudur and passed the Tamil Vid-

His intellectual prowess was amazing. He was also interested in Ayurveda from childhood

wan final exam and became Tamil teacher at the Jilla Board School at Chengalpatu.

He got married in 1960 and was blessed with five sons and two daughters. However, he gave up family life and became the head of Periyashramam at the age of 54.

Devotees said his intellec-

tual prowess was amazing and he was proficient in Sanskrit, Tamil and Telugu. He was interested in Ayurveda from childhood.

He set up goshalas and established seven veda paatashalas to spread and protect Hindu religion, said a release issued by the Srimad Andavan Arts and Science College, which he established at Srirangam in 1996. The mortal remains of the Swamigal would be laid to rest at the Srirangam Ashram on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has condoned his death.



Sri Ranga Ramanuja Maha Desikan

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High Court frowns upon use of orderlies by police officials

Asks Home Secretary to explain the practice despite ban in force since 1979

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S. CHENNAI
The Madras High Court on Monday took serious note of media reports of lower grade policemen being engaged as orderlies in the residences of senior police officials.

It directed the Home Secretary to explain how such a practice continued despite a ban imposed through a government order way back in 1979.

Passing interim orders on a criminal origin petition pending since 2012, Justice N. Kirubakaran also directed the Home Secretary to be present in the court on Thursday if he fails to spell out the names of those who would be a part of a committee.

The judge recalled to



have made a recommendation to the State government on July 2, 2012, to constitute a committee headed by a retired High Court judge to study the causes for increasing number of desertions, suicides and such other issues in the police force.

After prolonging the issue for long and taking re-

Q If they want, the officials can appoint attenders for their domestic work

peated adjournments, the court was informed in 2016 that the Commissioner of Police, Chennai city, had written to the Director General of Police (DGP) on October 7, 2016 in this regard along with the bio-data of those who could be included in the committee.

There was a lull once again and after the hearing held on March 8, Special Government Pleader T.M. Pappiah informed the court on Monday that the DGP, in turn, had written a letter to the Home Secretary on March 12 seeking neces-

sary orders with regard to the constitution of the committee and was awaiting a reply.

Mounting suicides
Irked over such a submission, the judge said that the delay in constituting the committee would not be in the interest of the police personnel especially when 600 to 700 desertions were reported every year.

He also said that 19 policemen had committed suicides in 2010, 31 in 2011, 58 in 2012, 31 in 2013, 27 in 2014 and 16 in 2017.

He stressed that serious efforts should be taken to appoint the committee so that issues related to fixing definite working hours for the

police personnel and holding regular mental and physical health check ups could be determined.

He also said that no policeman should be engaged as an orderly in residences of serving and retired higher officials.

"Policemen are being paid from the public exchequer and they are supposed to do public service and not individual work in the houses of either the higher police officials or retired officials.

"If they want, the officials can appoint attenders or house maids for their domestic work or they could be sent through the Public Works Department," the judge said.

Form district panels to inspect safety in schools, court tells govt.

Director of School Education told to strictly follow fire safety norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Monday ordered the Director of School Education (DSE) to constitute district-level committees chaired by Chief Educational Officers (CEOs) and comprising experts to inspect all schools within their jurisdiction and find out if the buildings conform to the norms set by the government and whether they were safe for children.

First Division Bench of Chief Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice Abdul Quddus issued the interim direction on a public interest litigation petition filed by Changendia, a non-governmental organisation represented by its director A. Narayanan, seeking a direction to the government to ensure that school buildings comply with norms set under the National Building Code.

After hearing arguments advanced by the petitioner, the judges directed additional government pleader E. Manohar to ensure that a counter affidavit on behalf of the State government



Directions on safety of children issued after the Kumbakonam fire not followed, says High Court

was filed within a week.

She directed the petitioner to file a rejoinder, if he wanted to do so, within a week thereafter. Meanwhile, it ordered constitution of district-level committees.

The Bench directed the DSE to take note of the provisions of Part IV - Fire & Life Safety and the Code of Practice of Fire Safety in

Educational Institutions of the Bureau of Indian Standards enumerated in the National Building Code, 2005 at the time of constituting the committees to inspect all schools, irrespective of their affiliation.

An eye-opener

Recalling the 2004 Kumbakonam fire tragedy in which 94 children were killed, the petitioner organisation stated that it led to a public interest litigation petition filed by Avinash Mehrotra in the Supreme Court.

While disposing of that petition in 2009, the Supreme Court issued a series of directions to all the States and Union territories on ensure safety of schoolchildren. "Unfortunately, the Supreme Court's directions remain only on paper in Tamil Nadu. Several unrecognised schools, claiming to impart Samacheer, CBSE, ICSE education, are allowed to function without any statutory inspection. Many schools run by both the government as well as private persons are functioning in dangerous conditions," it claimed.

Police suicides due to personal issues: CM

Steps are being taken to reduce depression related to work, says Edappadi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The recent suicides of two policemen in Chennai was due to personal problems and the State government is taking steps to ensure that the police personnel got sufficient rest and were in good health, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami informed the Assembly on Monday.

Responding to concerns raised by DMK MLA B. Ranganathan (Vilivakkam) about the suicides of constables Arunraj and sub-inspector Sathish



Kumar, Mr. Palaniswami said enquiries into the incidents revealed that both had taken the extreme step because of personal problems. "However, the State government is taking

Q Weekly rest and eight-hour duty being ensured as far as possible in cities

steps to reduce depression related to work and ensure their health," the Chief Minister said.

Weekly rest and eight-hour duty were being ensured as far as possible in cities.

Besides the weekly parade, physical exercise and yoga had been made a part of the regimen for personnel attached to all police stations in the State.

Medical camps for the benefit of personnel and their family members were being arranged in police stations as well as in police quarters, the Chief Minister added.

On March 4, constable Arunraj, who was in the sentry duty at the memorial of former Chief Minister Jayalalitha shot himself with his service rifle. On March 7, police sub-inspector Sathish Kumar shot himself with his service rifle at the Ayanavaram police station.

Responding to other allegations made by Mr.

Ranganathan about the law and order situation in the State, the Chief Minister said Tamil Nadu was reported safe for women as per a report of the National Crime Records Bureau.

Coimbatore and Chennai were reported safe under the major cities and metro cities categories respectively, he said.

The Chief Minister listed various steps taken by the State government, and refuted allegations that vacancies in the police force were not being filled.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: SKYMET (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: No weather warning									
CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN
Agartala	...	34.0	22.8	Kozhikode	...	37.0	26.4	...	...
Ahmedabad	...	34.3	23.8	Kurumbur	...	38.2	24.8	...	...
Aizawl	...	29.8	13.6	Lucknow	...	34.0	12.6	...	...
Allahabad	...	36.4	14.2	Madurai	...	36.4	24.6	...	...
Bengaluru	...	31.9	18.7	Mangaluru	...	36.0	24.4	...	...
Bhopal	...	36.1	22.4	Mumbai	...	32.6	22.0	...	...
Bhubaneswar	...	36.3	23.4	Mysuru	...	26.6	32.6	19.6	...
Chandigarh	...	30.0	13.4	New Delhi	...	35.0	15.0	...	...
Chennai	...	32.5	24.0	Patna	...	34.7	15.4	...	...
Coimbatore	...	34.0	23.3	Port Blair	...	31.7	24.0	...	...
Dehradun	...	31.5	12.9	Puducherry	...	31.6	21.9	...	...
Gangtok	...	21.5	10.1	Pune	...	35.6	18.3	...	...
Goa	...	33.0	23.3	Rajpur	...	36.9	23.6	...	...
Gwalhati	...	31.6	13.8	Ranchi	...	33.2	17.2	...	...
Huabali	...	32.0	22.0	Shillong	...	22.5	10.9	...	...
Hyderabad	...	35.8	21.0	Shimla	...	21.0	9.0	...	...
Imphal	...	14.1	28.9	Srinagar	...	22.0	4.2	...	...
Jaipur	...	32.2	20.7	Tiruvandrum	...	33.7	24.7	...	...
Kochi	...	31.1	22.0	Tiruchir	...	35.1	23.6	...	...
Kolkata	...	4.8	22.2	Vijayawada	...	36.0	21.0	...	...
Kollata	...	36.4	23.1	Vishakhapatnam	...	32.5	25.5	...	...

Pollutants in the air you are breathing									
CITY	SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	CO	YESTERDAY			
Ahmedabad	74	104	36	161	...	...	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhivadi		
Bengaluru	...	76	92	...	...	...
Chennai	23	26	30	109	...	...	Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 173		
Delhi	43	89	28	162	...	...	
Hyderabad	...	71	46	...	...	...	indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ludhiana scored a healthy AQI score of 59		
Kolkata	...	50	36	...	...	...
Lucknow	...	27	32	...	...	...	Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)		
Mumbai	...	73	40	...	...	...
Pune	...	73	40	...	...	...	Sulphur Dioxide: Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.		
Vishakhapatnam	...	52	28	...	...	...

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease (Individual pollutant data for various cities are averages for the previous day)

Teenager electrocuted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

A 14-year-old boy was electrocuted when he tried to remove a kite from an electricity post near his house at Kundrathur on Sunday.

According to the police, Harish Dhandapani, 14, was electrocuted when he climbed up a tree and tried to take out a kite caught in a high-tension power cable. He was rushed to a hospital in Porur where he was declared dead on arrival.

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No. RRB/TVC/ADVT/Vol.VI/07/2017-18, Date: 20/03/2018

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IN BRIEF



Tamil Thai statue to be installed next year

Work on the 'Tamil Thai' (Mother Tamil) statue is under way, and the statue would be installed in Madurai in the coming year, the State government informed the Assembly on Monday. Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture K. Pandiarajan said funds to the tune of ₹50 crore had been allocated and work had begun.

Natarajan continues to remain critical

CHENNAI
M. Natarajan, husband of V.K. Sasikala, who was admitted to the Gleneagles Global Hospital on Friday, continues to remain in a critical condition, according to a bulletin from the hospital on Monday morning. The bulletin said he was admitted to the intensive care unit with severe chest infection and related complications, and was on ventilator support.

Put pressure on Centre for funds: Vijayadharani

CHENNAI
The State government must come forward to hold a special sitting of the Assembly to pass a resolution urging the Centre to release funds due to Tamil Nadu, Congress MLA S. Vijayadharani (Vilavancode) urged in the Assembly here on Monday. "We [opposition parties] would support the State government in this regard," she said. Referring to the pending dues from the Centre, Ms. Vijayadharani said there was a need to exert pressure on the Centre to secure the State's share of funds.

Fish found dead along the Cauvery

SALAM
A large number of fish were found dead along the Cauvery river between the Mettur Thermal bridge and the Chekkur village on Monday. Villagers found the dead fish floating on the downstream of the river and immediately informed the Fisheries department. A team of Fisheries department officials rushed to the spot and collected water samples and the dead fish for examination.

Kurangani victims trekked on unauthorised route: CM

Says tall lemon grass exacerbated blaze; claims no warning was issued by FSI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Monday told the Assembly that those who were killed in the forest fire in Kurangani over a week ago were part of a team that trekked on a route "not authorised for trekking".

Responding to a calling attention motion on the issue, the Chief Minister said no warning was received from the Forest Survey of India (FSI) in connection with the forest fire.

The last time the fire broke out was on February 15 and it was doused by the Forest Department. If the fire was not extinguished, a warning would have been received from the FSI," he said while responding to Opposition leader M.K. Stalin and Congress Legislative



The forest fire has claimed 17 lives thus far.

Party leader K.R. Ramasami. He said on the ill-fated day, the fire had spread fast because the area was covered by tall lemon grass with oil content.

The contention of Mr. Stalin was that while in other States over 2,000 persons had registered with the FSI to receive warning on fire, in Tamil Nadu, only 250 persons had done so. He alleged

that guidelines for trekking were not strictly adhered to and guides were not provided to help the trekking team. However, Mr. Palaniswami said on March 10, a team of 12 persons from Erode and Tirupur districts had reached Kurangani and received entry passes from the Eco Development Committee on the day itself to visit top station.

"Instead of visiting the area permitted for trekking, they had reached the private tea estate in Kolukkumalai through the Kottakudi reserve forest, traversing 7.1 km. The route is not allowed for trekking," the CM said.

'Unauthorised stay'

The passes were given only for a day's trip and those receiving them could not spend the night in the forest. "But they had spent the

night at the estate," he said.

The Chennai team, comprising 27 members, reached Kurangani on March 10 and reached the private tea estate through the unauthorised route. "According to the district collector, the tea estate has not received any permission to function as a guest house. Of the 27 members, three left for Kerala. Others started trekking in the reserve forest area on March 11 through the unauthorised route. While returning, they were caught in the forest fire," Mr. Palaniswami said.

The CM added that preliminary inquiry revealed that forester Jayasingh had received information about 12 persons trekking in the unauthorised area but did not act on it. His statement was recorded and he was suspended on March 12.

'Bill on Lokayukta after studying Central Act'

Minister denies delay in setting up the body

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The State government, which has developed a draft framework for setting up a Lokayukta in the State, will introduce a Bill after undertaking a comparative study of the body as it exists in other States and after reviewing the amendments proposed to the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, Minister for Personnel and Administrative Reforms D. Jayakumar informed the Assembly on Monday.

During a debate on the State budget for 2018-19 in the House, DMK MLA B. Ranganathan (Villivakkam) questioned the delay in setting up the Lokayukta for the State.

Responding to Mr. Ranganathan, Mr. Jayakumar said that the State government had constituted a seven-member committee under the Chief Secretary, which



D. Jayakumar

developed a draft framework for the institution, following the enactment of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

The draft framework was reviewed at a meeting chaired by the then Chief Minister Jayalalithaa on December 19, 2014. Since the Centre decided to make amendments to the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, a meeting chaired by then Chief Minister had on February 14, 2016 decided to wait for the amendments.

'MLAs' kin bidding for contracts not an issue'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Anyone, including the relatives of the legislators, can take part in the tender process for implementing government schemes, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami told the Assembly on Monday.

Intervening during a debate on the State Budget, Mr. Palaniswami said any bid for tenders by the relatives of the MLAs would be wrong "only if it is illegal". "Many of you are also taking part in the process. I have all the details," the Chief Minister said.

Later, in a different context, Electricity Minister P. Thangamani claimed that the relatives of the Chief Minister had been involved in business activities long before they became his relatives.

DMK questions govt. on budget speech

'Claims repeated from last year's budget'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

DMK MLA S. Regupathy on Monday questioned the State government on the status of various announcements made by it during the presentation of the budget last year and asked whether several figures mentioned in the budget speech of Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam this year were just reproduced from the budget speech made by the Finance Minister in 2017-18.

Referring to the budget speech of the then Finance Minister D. Jayakumar in 2017-18 about the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund, for which ₹6,000 crore was to be mobilised, with ₹1,200 crore in the first phase, Mr. Regupathy ("Tirumayam") questioned why this was missing in the budget speech of Mr. Panneerselvam. "Was the fund mobilised?" he asked.

The DMK member also compared the budget speeches of the current and previous fiscals regarding the State government's commitment to First Loss Catalytic Capital and sought to get the correct status of the fund.

'Targets not being met'

Since both the speeches referred to the release of ₹30 crore towards the First Loss Catalytic Capital, Mr. Regupathy sought to know whether the Deputy Chief Minister had merely repeated last year's claim.

Mr. Regupathy went on to claim that several targets set in various sectors were not being met by the State government.

Revenue Minister R.B. Udhayakumar denied the claim and said that the targets have been achieved since 2011-12 in terms of distribution of free house site pattas to the needy.

Stalin demands ban on VHP's rath yatra in T.N.

Says it will disturb peace and communal harmony

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

DMK working president M.K. Stalin on Monday urged the State government not to allow the rath yatra of the Vishva Hindu Parishad in support of the Ram Temple in Tamil Nadu, saying it would disturb peace, communal harmony and law and order in the State.

In a statement here, he said that at a time when the Ram temple issue was pending before the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, the yatra would not only amount to contempt of court, but also be seen as a pressure tactic.

"If the yatra enters Tamil Nadu, the government should arrest those who are part of it and send them back to Uttar Pradesh. I strongly condemn the State government for granting permission for the yatra," he said.



Taking a stand: DMK leader M.K. Stalin emerging from the Assembly premises in Chennai on Sunday. • R. RAGU

Mr Stalin said it was unfortunate that Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, who had vowed to contain religious extremism at the recent district collectors' conference, had allowed the rath yatra to save his government and Chief Ministership. "The BJP and its sister organisations are attempting to fuel religious extremism to get a foothold in Tamil Nadu.

But they will not succeed in their attempt as ours is a land shaped by Periyar and Anna," he added.

Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani too said the Tamil Nadu government should not allow the yatra as it would lead to disruption of peace in the State.

He accused the VHP of trying to turn a peaceful State like Tamil Nadu into a

place of casteist and religious fundamentalism. "The State government should take note of the motion moved by the four MLAs and should not allow the yatra," he said.

Meanwhile, R.K. Nagar MLA T.T.V. Dhinakaran condemned the Palaniswami-led government for "opening the State to religious fundamentalist forces."

Prohibitory order issued in Tirunelveli

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT TIRUNELVELI

With various political parties announcing protests against the entry of the Ram Rajya Rath Yatra, organised by the Vishva Hindu Parishad, into Tirunelveli district, Collector Sandeep Nanduri issued a prohibitory order on Monday night. The order, under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, will be in force till 6 a.m. on Friday, the Collector said.

The police said the rath yatra from Kerala to Shencottah would be permitted to proceed towards Virudhunagar district and again return to the district on its way back to Thiruvananthapuram via Kanyakumari on Friday. A huge posse of police has been deployed along the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border ahead of the rath yatra's entry.

Gutkha still being sold, claims Stalin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

DMK working president and Leader of the Opposition M.K. Stalin on Monday alleged that gutkha was still being sold in various parts of the State. This was evident from the fact that the police were regularly arresting individuals for selling the banned tobacco product, he said. Speaking in the Assembly, the DMK leader recalled that last year, he tried to produce evidence of the availability of gutkha before the

House. "But you didn't allow [me to do it]. Media reports suggest that the sale [of gutkha] is still continuing," he said while intervening during a debate.

When Speaker P. Dhanapal made a mention of a case that is pending before the Madras High Court, Mr. Stalin responded saying, "The pending case is about the action you took against us [DMK MLAs were accused of committing a breach of privilege by carrying sachets of gutkha in the House].

AIADMK MLA takes a dig at actors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Taking a dig at actors nurturing political aspirations, AIADMK MLA Thoppu N.D. Venkatachalam on Monday said they will not succeed in their endeavours and "will soon disappear".

During a debate on the budget in the Assembly, Mr. Venkatachalam mentioned the name of an actor and said he may be a "tiger in cinema", but was only a "mouse in politics". He went on to mention a song from a recent Tamil film and said, "There is a verse in the song, which says a Tamil

will rule us (Alaporan Tamilan). Is our Chief Minister from the Sinhala land? He is very much a Tamil." DMK leader M.K. Stalin rose and said it was not appropriate to criticise those who were not present in the House. When Speaker P. Dhanapal turned to the AIADMK MLA, he said the names of the actors [referred to by him] need not be recorded. He went on to say that the CM didn't know how to light a cigarette in style, deliver punch dialogues or speak in a "manner that confuses others", but he was leading the government efficiently.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

DR.B.NAGARAJAN (81) Cancer Institute (Retd) Passed away on 19.03.2018. Cremation on 21.03.2018 at Besant Nagar Crematorium, Chennai around 1 pm. Contact: 044-24421133.

OUR BELOVED mother S.M.Parvathiam W/o Late M.S. Subramaniam attained heavenly abode on 11th March, 2018. Dasasthu on 20/03/2018 at Madurai. Children: Late S. Ramesh, Hani, Chandru and Rajan. Contact: 9894110775, 0452-9892616.

SAD DEMISE

MR. R. SITHARAMAN
Passed away on 19-03-2018
Cremation on 20-03-2018
Deeply Mourned by
R.S. Divagar (Son) & Family Members
9884603210 / 9940188657

We deeply mourn the sudden demise of

Sri R. SITHARAMAN
Staff of
Ammantharasaram Publications Pvt. Ltd.

N.S. JAYARAMAN (81)
Passed away on 14th March 2018 in Atlanta, USA. He is survived by his wife Indira, daughter Meera, Son-in-Law Michael Warren, grand-children Michael, Lance & Andrew & his sister Soudara.

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

V. BALAKRISHNA MENON
19-01-1922 to 19-03-2018.
Cremation at Besant Nagar crematorium on 20-03-2018 at 10 am.
Lovingly remembered by children, grandchildren and their families.

DEATH

OBITUARY

Dr. S. GOPALAKRISHNAN
(1929 - 2018)
Ex-Medical Superintendent, Vijaya Health Centre, Ex-Chief Medical Officer, Southern Railway. Son: Subramaniam, Srinivasan, Shrikant. Sisters: Lakshmi, Mangala, Shanti. Brother: Srinivasan.
Phone: 98405-25752
eMail: DRSGKS@gmail.com

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

15th Anniversary
15-03-2003
20-03-2018
Mr. M. JOHN ALEXANDER
Enshrined in our hearts,
Family Members
Ph: 80561.89153 & 92765.37679

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE

Dr. K. Jayapaul
MD(Gen), MD(Ven), DV, FIMS
Director Dept of STD(retd), Madras Medical College & Government General Hospital, Chennai
(05.12.1939 - 18.03.2018)
Peacefully passed away at Royapuram, Chennai
Deeply Mourned by
Mrs. Sarojini Jayapaul (wife)
Children
Mrs. Prabha Azhagappa & Family
Mr. Ajitpaul & Family
Mr. Ranjithpaul & Family

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

80th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."
3 John 1:4

Mrs. KANAGAVALLI BONIFACE
(Retd. DGM Systems, HLC Limited, Neyveli)
20th March 1938 - 27th May 1998
She gave her best for her family, bringing up her children in the knowledge and love of the Lord and preparing them for life's journey.
With hearts grateful to God we remember
I.N. Boniface, Jami, Rebecca, Vimal & Vasant, and their families

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

18th ANNIVERSARY
27.07.1971 - 20.03.2000
Dr. V. VENKATESH
(Venky) M.B.B.S., F.R.C.S.
When someone you love becomes a memory, the Memory becomes a treasure. You are always in our heart's
Dr. K. Vaidyanathan - Mrs. V. Vasanth
Dr. V. Anand Kumar - Mrs. A. Anandhi
Mr. Suresh S. S. - Mrs. Anu Suresh & Children

16th ANNIVERSARY
20.03.2002 - 20.03.2018
S.R. RAMACHANDRAN B.E.
Retd. Supt. Engr. Highways Dept.
Remembered with love
FAMILY MEMBERS
Ph: 9380460803

First Anniversary
Mr. E.P. NARAYANAN
Retd. Manager, Union Bank of India
D.O.D: 20th March, 2017
"You live in our hearts forever"
Fondly remembered by
Wife: Mrs. Indira Narayanan and
Sons: Vivek & Vijay
99628 30185

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FIRST ANNIVERSARY

N. RANJAN
10.05.1952 - 20.03.2017
Fondly remembered by
FAMILY MEMBERS
& STAFF OF
Pillai & Sons Motor Co.
CHENNAI, THANJAVUR,
TRICHY & BRANCHES &
HAWK TECHNOLOGIES (P) LTD

'No legal basis to approach ICJ against Sri Lanka'

Centre files affidavit in case relating to attack on fishermen

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

The Central government on Monday told the Madras High Court that there is no legal basis for India to invoke the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) since there is no treaty, including human rights treaties, under which the alleged attacks by Sri Lankan Navy against Indian fishermen could be established as human rights violation.

The submission was made in a counter-affidavit filed before the first Division Bench of Chief Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice Abdul Qudus who were seized of a public interest litigation petition filed by Fishermen Care, a private body that had sought for a direction to the Centre to refer the alleged rights violations to the ICJ.

After taking the counter-affidavit on file, the judges granted a week's time to the petitioner's counsel L.P. Maurya for filing a rejoinder. The counter filed by Binoy George, Deputy Secretary (Sri Lanka), Ministry of External Affairs, also stated that there was no scope for a reference, as sought for by the PIL petitioner, even under the Statute of the ICJ.

Three methods

The official pointed out that Article 36 of the Statute provides for a reference through three methods, one by means of the provi-



Constant threat: Policemen inspecting a boat which was allegedly damaged by the Sri Lankan Navy in Rameswaram.

sions of a 'special agreement' between two countries, the other was by invoking the compulsory clause incorporated in international treaties or conventions and third by way of recognising the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ.

In so far as the present case was concerned, none of the three options could be exercised since "it was highly unlikely that Sri Lanka will enter into any special agreement with India for invoking the jurisdiction of the ICJ." The compulsory clause also could not be invoked because there was no bilateral treaty conferring the ICJ jurisdiction on issues concerning fishermen.

"Neither the 1974 and 1976 bilateral agreements nor the Geneva Convention 1958, referred to in the writ petition, contain such a clause. Therefore, the ICJ's jurisdiction cannot be invoked under these instru-

ments," Mr. George said. He added that the third and last option could also not be exercised since Sri Lanka had not accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ.

Though India had accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ under Article 36(2) of the Statute, it had excluded the jurisdiction of the court with respect to disputes with the government of any State which is or has been a member of the Commonwealth of nations.

Further, listing out a series of issues, including maritime related affairs, on which India had expressed reservations over invoking the compulsory jurisdiction, the officer said: "In view of the above-mentioned declaration, India cannot invoke the compulsory jurisdiction clause for filing a case against Sri Lanka which is a member of the Commonwealth and the issue being maritime-related affairs."

Anbumani flays government for vacant teacher positions

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

PMK youth wing leader Anbumani Ramadoss on Tuesday asked how the standard of school education would improve in Tamil Nadu when there were no teachers in schools. In a statement, Mr.

Anbumani said that it was condemnable that the State government, which keeps saying that it wants to improve school education, had not done anything to appoint teachers.

"Around 918 high school and higher secondary schools are functioning without headmasters. In 884 high schools, the headmasters have not been appointed for more than two years. With the government upgrading 100 high schools as higher secondary schools and 150 middle schools as high

schools, around 950 high schools have been functioning without headmasters," he pointed out.

Around 1,640 teacher vacancies in higher secondary schools and 2,405 vacancies in high schools are still vacant. "In the month of May, the total number of vacancies will increase to 10,000. There has been no effort to fill these vacancies," he added. Meanwhile, PMK founder Dr. S. Ramadoss on Monday opposed any re-test to choose teachers for polytechnic colleges.

'Cutting' of sacred thread condemned

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A public meeting was held at Mylai Mangalali here on Monday to condemn incidents where the sacred thread (poonai) of some Brahmins was allegedly cut by miscreants.

Leaders from the Brahmin community and political parties took part in the meeting and addressed the gathering.

Among those who participated were actor-turned-politician S. Ve. Shekhar, Puthiya Tamilagam leader K. Krishnasamy, T. Devanathan Yadav of Indian Makkal Kalvi Munnetra Kazhagam and R. Anbazhagan of the Tamil Nadu Meevannar Peravai.

Mr. Shekhar said that cutting the sacred thread and tuft of Brahmins was not an act of bravery.

"If such atrocities continue, we will ensure that the organisations doing such acts are banned," he said.

HC reserves verdict on Karti's petition

He has challenged the lookout circular

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Monday reserved its judgment on a writ petition filed by former Union Minister P. Chidambaram's son Karti P. Chidambaram challenging a lookout circular against him by the Bureau of Immigration under the Union Home Ministry on June 16, 2017, at the request of the Central Bureau of Investigation, which is probing the INX Media case.

Chief Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice Abdul Qudus deferred their verdict since oral arguments as well as submission of written notes of their arguments had been concluded. The Registry was directed to de-tag the writ petitions filed by Mr. Karti Chidambaram's four "friends," challenging the LOCs issued against them, since they were yet to submit written arguments.

It was on the basis of an



Karti P. Chidambaram

interim order passed by the judges in this case on February 16 this year that Mr. Karti Chidambaram was permitted to travel to London. The CBI officials arrested him when he landed at the Chennai airport.

The First Information Report (FIR) in the INX Media case was registered on May 15, 2017 against INX Media represented by its director Indrani Mukherjea and others, INX News represented by its director S. Pratim Mukherjea alias Peter Mukherjea and others and Chess Management Services represented by its director Mr. Karti P. Chidambaram and others.

FROM PAGE 1

Will wait till March 29 for CMB, says OPS

"We have waited so far, and let us wait till the last date. As far as the Cauvery water [sharing] dispute is concerned, we will not give up the rights secured by our leader Anna (former Chief Minister Jayalalitha). The AIADMK MPs have been raising the issue for the past one week and the Lok Sabha proceedings have been affected by this. Such incidents in support of an issue concerning Tamil Nadu are unprecedented in our political history," he claimed.

Mr. Panneerselvam took issue with Mr. Stalin's assertion that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu withdrew his party's support to the BJP government and recalled his Ministers from the Union Cabinet to uphold the rights of his State. The Telugu Desam Party had been a part of the government at the Centre for the past four-and-a-half years, he pointed out.

"The no-confidence mo-



O. Panneerselvam

tion is purely related to the issues facing Andhra Pradesh, and has nothing to do with the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board. The two cannot be linked," he contended.

'Steps being taken'

Meanwhile, BJP State president Tamilisel Soundararajan said the Centre had initiated steps to constitute the Cauvery Management Board. Addressing media persons in Coimbatore, he said there was still time for completing the task, and asked the political parties in Tamil Nadu to wait for it.

Disabled rights unions plan stir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Joint Action Committee of the Associations for the Disabled is planning to stage an agitation on Wednesday to protest against the alleged behaviour of M. Rajendran, Commissioner, Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Societies Election Commission, towards two persons with disabilities.

In a press release, the committee alleged that Mr. Rajendran had ridiculed two visually impaired persons who had come to his office to submit a petition with regard to the co-operative societies elections and hurt their sentiments.

A complaint was lodged with the police in this regard, but there has been no action till now.

The protest is being organised demanding action against Mr. Rajendran.

The protest will take place near the Teynampet Kamadhenu supermarket.

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HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED

Our Company was incorporated on August 16, 1963 as Aeronautics India Limited, a private limited company under the Companies Act, 1956. Subsequently, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, a company incorporated on December 23, 1940 under the Companies Act, 1913 was merged with our Company, pursuant to the Aircraft Companies Amalgamation Order dated September 28, 1964 passed by the Company Law Board. The name of our Company was changed to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, by a certificate of change of name issued by the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra dated December 5, 1964 with effect from October 1, 1964. The status of our Company was changed to public company by a special resolution of the members of our Company passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on July 10, 1995. For further details relating to incorporation, corporate structure, change in registered office of our Company, please refer to the chapter "History and Corporate Matters" beginning on page 171 of the RHP.

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INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF 34,167,525 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED (OUR "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") THROUGH AN OFFER FOR SALE BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (THE "SELLING SHAREHOLDER"), FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ 110 PER EQUITY SHARE (THE "OFFER PRICE"), AGGREGATING TO ₹ 3,758,375,000 ("₹ 3,758.375 BILLION") ("THE OFFER") COMPRISING OF A NET OFFER OF 33,438,750 EQUITY SHARES. THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE 10.20% AND 10% RESPECTIVELY, OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UPTO 688,775 EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING TO ₹ 75,766,250 FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES ("EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS REFERRED TO AS THE NET OFFER.

*RETAIL DISCOUNT OF ₹ 25 PER EQUITY SHARE TO THE OFFER PRICE SHALL BE OFFERED TO THE RETAIL INDIVIDUAL BIDDERS AND EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT OF ₹ 25 PER EQUITY SHARE TO THE OFFER PRICE WILL BE OFFERED TO THE ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION.

Price Band: ₹ 1,215 to ₹ 1,240 per Equity Share of Face Value of ₹ 10 each.
The Offer Price is 121.5 times the Face Value and the Cap Price is 124 times the Face Value.
Bids can be made for a minimum of 12 Equity Shares and in multiples of 12 Equity Shares thereafter.

RISKS TO INVESTORS

(i) The two Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Issue have handled 44 public issues in the past 3 years, out of which 14 issues closed below the issue/offering price on listing date.
(ii) There are no listed companies in India that engage in a business similar to that of the Company. Hence, industry comparison in relation to the Company is not applicable.
(iii) The average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares by our Promoter is ₹ (152) per Equity Share (after considering the impact of buy-back of Equity Shares in March, 2016 and November, 2017). The Offer Price at the upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 1,240 per Equity Share.

BID/OFFER PROGRAMME CLOSES TODAY

ASBA* Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application - Make use of IT!!! Mandatory in public issue from January 1, 2016. No cheque will be accepted.

*Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issue by simply blocking the bid in the bank account, investors can avoid the same. For further details, check section on ASBA below.

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period shall be extended for at least three additional Working Days after such revision of the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band, and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges by issuing a press release and also by indicating the change on the websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Member.

The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957. The Offer is being made in terms of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, wherein all 10% of the post-offer paid-up Equity Share capital of our Company will be offered to the public. The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 28(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2009, as amended ("SEBI ICDR Regulations"), wherein 50% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIB Portion"). Such number of Offers (defined below) representing 5% of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only. The remainder of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs. Bids, subject to valid bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. However, if the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the QIB Portion, the balance Offer Shares available for allocation in the Mutual Fund Portion will be added to the remaining QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not less than 10% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. Further, upto 688,775 additional Equity Shares shall be offered for allocation and allotment on a proportionate basis to the Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion, conditional upon valid bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders shall participate in the Offer mandatorily through the Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process by providing the details of their respective ASBA Accounts in which the corresponding Bid Amount will be blocked by the SCBSs. For details, see "Offer Procedure" on page 705 of the RHP.

Bidders should note that on the basis of PAN, DP ID and Client ID as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder as available on the records of the Depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for unbundling of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details will be at the Bidder's sole risk. Bidders should ensure that PAN, DP ID and Client ID are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The PAN, DP ID and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the PAN, DP ID and Client ID available in the depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected.

For information on the main objects and other objects of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 171 of the RHP and Clause III of the Memorandum of Association of the Company. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 706 of the RHP.

Liability of the members of the Company: Limited by shares.

The amount of subscription of the Company and Capital Structure: The authorised, issued, subscribed and paid up share capital of our Company as on the date of the RHP is as follows: The authorised Equity Share capital of our Company is ₹ 6,000,000,000 divided into 600,000,000 Equity Shares of ₹ 10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid up capital of our Company is ₹ 3,343,875,000 divided into 334,387,500 Equity Shares. For further details, see "Capital Structure" on page 97 of the RHP.

Names of signatories to the Memorandum of Association of the Company and the number of Equity Shares subscribed by them: Given below are the names of the signatories of the Memorandum of Association of our Company and the number of Equity Shares subscribed by them at the time of signing of the Memorandum of Association of our Company: 1. President of India (A. B. Jha), Secretary (Defence Production), Ministry of Defence - 8 shares, 2. Dr. S. Bhagavanthran, Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister - 1 share, 3. Shri M. K. Hanumanth, Financial Adviser, Ministry of Finance (Defence) - 1 share, 4. Shri K. P. K. Menon, Joint Secretary (Production), Ministry of Defence - 1 share, 5. Shri S. P. Mukherjee, Deputy Secretary (Production), Ministry of Defence - 1 share, and 6. Shri P. K. Basu, Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Defence - 1 share, aggregating 11 Equity Shares.

Listing: The Offered Shares are proposed to be listed on BSE and NSE. Our Company has received in-principle approvals from BSE and NSE for listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to their letters dated October 10, 2017 and October 9, 2017, respectively. For the purposes of this Offer, BSE shall be the Designated Stock Exchange for listing of the Red Herring Prospectus and the Prospectus shall be delivered for registration to the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka, Bengaluru, ("RoC") in accordance with Section 28(4) of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents which shall be available for inspection from the date of registration of this Red Herring Prospectus with the RoC, until the Bid/Offer Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 706 of the RHP.

Disclaimer Clause of the SEBI: SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the offer or the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 682 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of SEBI.

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REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER

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Email: hal ipo@karvy.com
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Availability of Bid-cum-Application Forms: Bid-cum-Application Forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of our Company, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Tel No: +91 (80) 2322 0001, Fax No: +91 (80) 2322 0758, BRLMs: SBI Capital Markets Limited, Tel: +91 (22) 22178300, Fax: +91 (22) 22188332, Axis Capital Limited, Tel: +91 (22) 4325 2183, Fax: +91 (22) 4325 3000, Syndicate Member: SBICAP Securities Limited, Tel: +91 (40) 6718 2222 and at selected location of the sub-syndicate members (as given below), Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. Bid-cum-Application Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCBSs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

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All capitalised terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

Date: March 19, 2018
Place: Bengaluru

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is proposing, subject to statutory and regulatory requirements, market conditions and other considerations, an initial public offering of its equity shares and has filed a Red Herring Prospectus dated March 7, 2018 ("RHP") with the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka at Bengaluru on March 7, 2018. The RHP will be available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, BSE at www.bseindia.com, NSE at www.nseindia.com and on the websites of the Book Running Lead Managers (BRLMs) and Market Intermediaries (MIs) who are registered with the SEBI. The RHP is a preliminary document and should not be relied upon for investment decisions. For details, potential investors should refer to the section titled "Risk Factors" in the RHP. Investors should not refer to the draft red herring prospectus filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "U.S. Securities Act") and may not be offered or sold within the United States or, for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons (as defined in Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act ("Regulation S")) except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. No public offering of securities is contemplated in the United States or any other jurisdiction outside India.

In view of the national security related concerns, certain material information in relation to our business and operations has been classified as "confidential" by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India (the "MoD") and, as a result, we have not (i) disclosed such information in the RHP; or (ii) provided such information to the BRLMs, the legal counsels and other intermediaries involved in the Offer. We cannot assure you that the RHP contains all such material information necessary for investors to make an informed investment decision.

For Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
On behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/-
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Advtor: 583



IN BRIEF

Preliminary probe against ex-Minister

THE HON. JUSTICE M. R. RAJAGOPAL
Enquiry Commissioner and Special Judge, Vigilance, D. Ajith Kumar, ordered the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau to conduct a preliminary inquiry against former Kerala Education Minister P.K. Abdul Rabb, MLA, on suspicion of having allocated a college to a religious, educational society that had no infrastructure, including land.

Hashish oil worth ₹40 cr. seized in Kerala

A special squad of the Excise Department on Monday seized high-quality green hashish oil worth nearly ₹40 crore in the international market and arrested Rajesh, 47. Acting on a tip-off, the officials intercepted his car in Walyar. They recovered 36 kg of hashish oil from the car.

State nod for religious minority tag for Lingayats

Now, the ball is in Centre's court to notify the status

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

In a significant move ahead of the Assembly elections, the Karnataka Cabinet on Monday decided to accord 'religious minority' recognition to Lingayats and Vee-rashaiva-Lingayats who follow the philosophy of 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara. It also decided to recommend to the Centre to notify the status under the Central Minority Commission Act.

The religious minority tag will come into effect after the Centre notifies it. The Cabinet note emphasised that the decision would not affect the benefits available to other religious and linguistic minorities in the State.

This would mean that the Lingayats would not get any additional reservation in government jobs, apart from



A triumph: Lingayats celebrating the Karnataka Cabinet decision in Bengaluru on Monday. • SAMPATH KUMAR G. P.

what they are already entitled to under the backward classes quota. However, the tag would benefit those running educational institutions in many ways, including exemption from providing Right To Education quota.

'Lingayat Dharma'
Law Minister T.B. Jayachandran told presspersons that the new religion would be named "Lingayat Dharma". The State government would issue a notification on ac-

cording minority religion recognition under Section 2 (D) of the Karnataka State Minorities Act. Then it would be forwarded to the Centre for notifying under Section 2 (C) of the Central Minorities Act.

Four held for 'human sacrifice'

STAFF REPORTER SHIVAMOGGA

Four persons were arrested for killing a 65-year-old farmer in a 'human sacrifice' to unearth a hidden treasure in Anjanapura village in Shikaripur taluk on March 17. The police arrested local priest Shekharappa, Rangappa, Manjunatha, and Ghouse Peer. The beheaded body of Shesha Naik was found in an arcanut plantation on the outskirts of the village. SP Abhinav Khare said Shekharappa had told the other three about the treasure and 'human sacrifice'.

Village where all the bachelors are dammed

Girls won't marry into any family from Gudatipally in Telangana that is about to be submerged

R. AVADHAN

Apart from the usual challenges of making a decent living, young men from Gudatipally village in Telangana's Siddipet district are faced with a unique problem: they cannot find girls to marry. The reason? None of them have a convincing answer to a simple question from the father of the bride: 'Where will my daughter live after marriage?' Gudatipally, which has 800 houses and a population of 4,000, will be submerged

when the Gouravelli reservoir comes up in the Akkenanapeta mandal under the Husnabad revenue division.

Talks break down
"I have five acres of land which has been in my father's name for a long time. My parents have been looking for a bride for me for the past one year. There is always initial interest, but the talks inevitably break down when the bride's family discovers that there is no clarity on where and how their daughter will be living



Gudatipally residents stalling the reservoir work in January. • MOHD ARIF

after marriage," says Singireddy Nikhil Reddy, a young farmer. There are many like him in Gudatipally. According to Anjeli Tirupati Reddy, another resident, the village saw only six marriages in the last two years. The brides were from financially weak families who could not offer dowry and only barely managed to carry out the wedding ceremonies. It is estimated that in the village's Reddy community alone, there were about 35 bachelors. "I have friends in other communities as well and I hear the same problems from them," said Nalla Mahender Reddy, another villager. According to D. Shankar Kumar, Revenue Divisional Officer, Husnabad, in addition to Gudatipally,

Somaji Tanda village, with 109 houses, will be submerged. Complaints of difficulty in finding brides had also been voiced by many villagers whose homes were submerged under the Mallannasagar and Kondapochamma reservoirs. The capacity of the Gouravelli reservoir will be 8.23 thousand million cubic feet (tmcf). Scheduled to be completed by December 2018, it is expected to irrigate about 1.25 lakh acres in Jangam, Siddipet, Warangal and Karimnagar districts.

50 hostel students accuse staff of assault

'Bursting of firecrackers the trigger'

RAGHAV M. MOODBIDRI

About 50 second-year pre-university students at a hostel, managed by Alva's Education Foundation in Moodbidri, have complained to the police that two wardens, student welfare officers, and some administrative staff beat them up in the hostel rooms on Saturday night. According to the complaint on Sunday by a student, Prajwal Jagatap, some students celebrated the end of exams by bursting firecrackers on the hostel premises.

The complaint said that Rajesh and Nagesh, the wardens, and others arrived at the hostel in an inebriated state around 10.30 p.m. with sticks in their hands. They switched off the CCTV cameras and dragged 50 students out of their rooms and began thrashing them with sticks and kicking them with their boots. Meanwhile, M. Mohan Alva, chairman of the foundation, told *The Hindu* that three staff members had been suspended pending inquiry by a three-member committee.

EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. POE-2018-03, dated 15.03.2018 for e-procurement. The Principal Chief Engineer, Eastern Railway, Kolkata invites e-bids at e-procurement website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> from RDSO approved sources for supply of the following items: Tender No.: 021860031. Brief description of the stores: Manufacturing and supply of Elastic Rail Clip MK-III to RDSO Drg. No. T-3021. Alt. 5/latest alteration as per IRS Specification No. 131-1992 corrigendum number 4 of Dec 2016/latest corrigendum [NB: 'Latest' means as on tender closing date.] Quantity: as tender specified nos. Tender Value: Rs. 16,89,41,100/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 10,00,000/-. Heat of Allocation: 000845-79. Date and Time of closing: 17.04.2018 at 14.00 hrs. No manual offers sent by post/fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (MISC-355/2017-18) PPS Tender Notices are also available at Eastern Railway's Website www.easternrailways.gov.in

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Towards 2019

What the Congress needs above all is a clear and granular action plan

As president of the Congress, Rahul Gandhi seems to be taking on a more aggressive *avatar*, attacking the BJP for its divisive ideology and its failings on the governance front. But at the Congress plenary in Delhi, he had little to say by way of presenting an alternative vision, other than claiming for his party the space given up by the BJP. Most of his speech was a tirade against the party and its two main leaders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah. Mr. Modi was linked to corruption with a reference to the bank scam, and Mr. Shah to murder with a reference to the Sohrabuddin encounter killing. To the BJP's quest for absolute power, Mr. Gandhi posited the Congress's fight for truth. He contrasted the BJP's commitment to an organisation (the RSS) with the Congress's voice for the entire nation. But mere aggression is not enough and such words will ring inevitably hollow in the absence of a clear and granular action plan. Even the resolutions passed at the plenary had little use for particulars. The party's economic resolution faintly echoed Karl Marx's eleventh thesis on Feuerbach: "We have heard the clamour for change. It is now time for change." There was no point beyond this. The resolution on agriculture, employment and poverty alleviation seemed more like a budget proposal, the highlight being a 5% cess on the richest 1% to help the poor. The party is clearly seeking the middle ground: equal economic opportunities for all without, however, instilling the fear of tax terrorism or overbearing regulation. So, fostering of business confidence and rewarding of risk-taking were mentioned in the same breath as promoting employment and security. The relevance of the public sector in critical areas such as defence, transportation and financial services was noted, while resolving to win back economic freedom for India's entrepreneurs. Couched in such vague generalities, there is little to separate the Congress's policies from those of the BJP.

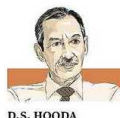
If the economic resolution took the middle path, the political resolution was open-ended with a call for a "pragmatic approach of working with like-minded parties and evolving a common workable programme to defeat the BJP-RSS in 2019". Although the Congress will undoubtedly be the single largest party in any anti-BJP alliance, it will have to play the role of a very junior partner in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In States such as Gujarat and Karnataka where it is a dominant party, it needs the help of smaller allies. Besides allies, the party will need post-poll backing from the Left, however reduced in numbers, to piece together a coalition against the BJP. A common workable programme will thus have to be forged with parties with very different orientations. In this context, the vague generalisations are understandable, but will they find favour with voters?

Bending the rules

The Neutrino Observatory is important, but it must get all environmental clearances

A year after the National Green Tribunal suspended the environmental clearance granted to the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO), the Expert Appraisal Committee (Infra 2) of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has overturned the NGT verdict and granted environmental clearance for the project. The observatory, which is to come up in Bodi West Hills in Theni district, Tamil Nadu, is regarded as a symbol not just of India's push for research in particle physics; it also signals the intent to nurture centres of excellence. Neutrinos are subatomic particles that are extremely difficult to detect. The laboratory cavern will be located 1,300 metres underground, with an access tunnel. The rock cover is necessary to minimise the naturally occurring cosmic ray background. The project has become controversial on environmental grounds, given the proposed site's proximity to the Mathiketan Biodiversity hotspot in Kerala's Western Ghats, a global biodiversity hotspot. However, considering the project's national importance, the Environment Ministry had taken up the proposal for clearance as a "special case". The green signal is conditional on getting the consent of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and the National Board for Wildlife. Despite the 17 conditions laid down by the Expert Committee while granting approval, the manner in which the clearance was granted leaves much to be desired.

The project has been approved under category B item 8(a) – building and construction projects – of the Schedule to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. But it should have been treated as category A as the project lies just 4.9 km from the national park in Idukki district of Kerala. The NGT had ruled that it was indeed a category A project and the Tamil Nadu State expert appraisal committee also noted that it could not be appraised under category B 8(a) as tunnelling and other activities went beyond the scope of the section. According to the 2006 notification, projects or activities that come under category A require "prior environmental clearance" from the Environment Ministry. Side-stepping the EIA requirement on technical grounds both by the project proponents and the Ministry is surely not the ideal way to go about such matters. For one, the EIA was done by the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, which is an "unaccredited agency". And though a public consultation with local people who have a "plausible stake" in the project was conducted in July 2010, the details of the meeting were submitted only by the end of February 2018. The importance of the project notwithstanding, treating it as a special case and bypassing the environmental clearance protocol sets a wrong precedent.



D.S. HOODA

"Army critical of defence budget," was a headline in this newspaper on March 14, with other newspapers also focussing on the "dashed hopes" of the Army while reporting on Vice-Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Sarath Chand's interaction with the parliamentary standing committee on defence. Television debates which followed had the all too familiar trend. The ruling party's spokesmen talked about how the government had worked to strengthen the military while the Opposition accused them of paying inadequate attention to the forces.

Reality check

What is the reality? As usual, it lies somewhere between the two extremes. According to a recent report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, India was the largest arms importer in the last five years, accounting for 12% of global imports. The Indian defence budget has now overtaken that of the U.K. to become the fifth largest in the world.

Despite this, as the Vice-Chief of Army Staff pointed out to Parliament's standing committee on defence, the current capital allocation is insufficient even to cater for "committed liabilities", which is payments for equipment under contractual obligation. Also, 68% of the Army's equipment is under the 'vintage' category and the situation is unlikely to improve in the near future. Equally worrying is the adverse impact on infrastructure development and strategic roads where there is a severe shortage of funds.



RUHA SHADAB

Even as the spotlight shifts to a "maha-panchayat" of doctors under the Indian Medical Association getting ready later this month to challenge the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill, 2017 (now before a parliamentary standing committee), it is pertinent to look at the Bill's highlights. Article 47 of the Constitution makes it clear that the state is duty-bound to improve public health, but India continues to face a health crisis, with an absolute shortage of and an inequitable presence of doctors and overburdened hospitals.

Although India has 10 lakh medical doctors, it needs 3,00,000 more in order to meet the World Health Organisation standard of the ideal doctor-population ratio. There is an 81% shortage of specialists in community health centres (CHC), the first point of contact for a patient with a specialist doctor. Those most affected by this are poor and rural patients who are then forced to consult

An insufficient defence budget impacts not only modernisation but also the current operational readiness of the force. Reduction in revenue allocation means cutting down on training requirements and routine replacement of items like surveillance and protective equipment.

The strategic environment in Asia is well known. Asia is developing into a multipolar system, with Russia, China, India and the U.S. jockeying for greater influence. As John J. Mearsheimer points out in *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, "(Asia) will be an unbalanced multipolar system, because China will be much more powerful than all other Asian great powers, and thus qualify as a potential hegemon... And when you have power asymmetries, the strong are hard to deter when they are bent on aggression."

It is a reality that conventional state-on-state conflict is on the decline, particularly between nuclear nations. However, one region where such a possibility exists is South Asia. India faces not only a long-term strategic challenge from China but also the continuing efforts by Pakistan to somehow maintain a semblance of military balance with India by keeping the Indian Army tied down in Kashmir, and developing a credible nuclear force.

India's dilemma is neatly summed up in the U.S.'s National Intelligence Council report, "Global Trends: The Paradox of Progress", "Geopolitically, [South Asia's] greatest hope is India's ability to use its economic and human potential to drive regional trade and development. At the same time, Afghanistan's uncertain prospects, extremism and violence in Pakistan, and the ever-present risk of war between India and Pakistan probably represent the greatest challenge to unlocking the region's potential."

Can India, India ranked at 131 in



the 2016 Human Development Report, and with 55.3% of the population living under "multidimensional poverty", afford a higher defence budget? Conversely, can a weakened military support India's ambition to achieving great power status? Japan, despite being the second largest economy at one time, was never considered a great power because of its limited military capability.

Regular strategic consultations between the political and military leadership are rare, and when they do take place it is generally for crisis-management, not long-term strategy. But the security challenges, both internal and external, facing the country have to be squarely addressed. The government and the military need to quickly come together and be on the same page. Currently, there does not seem to be a coherent or common assessment, and one example of this is the debate on the two-front war.

The two-front war

The service chiefs have constantly reminded the government that a two-front war is a real possibility and of the need to prepare for it. It is quite obvious that the government does not take this too seriously, as evidenced from budgetary allocations and glib statements that the forces are "reasonably and sufficiently equipped". The first step to resolve

this contradiction is for the government to order a comprehensive strategic review of the future threats to India. This will provide a clear picture to the political leadership, and also directions to the military on its doctrine and force structures. A long-term capability development plan can then be prepared by the military and approved by the government. This will form the basis for the defence budget. The annual bickering over the mismatch between what the military demands and the actual allocations made will be avoided.

The government must also take a holistic look at all border-guarding forces – the Army, Assam Rifles, the Border Security Force and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). While the Army leads in responding to all Chinese provocations such as Depsang, Chumar and Doklam, the border is technically the responsibility of the ITBP under the Home Ministry.

Recently, it was announced that the government was planning to raise nine ITBP battalions to "reduce the inter BoP (border out-post) distance" along the China border. Not only does this reflect an inadequate understanding of how the border is to be manned but completely ignores the existing deployment of the Army. A comprehensive and an integrated approach to border management could result in considerable savings.

The military's challenge

The military also must understand the realities of India's finances and look to reconstruct itself. Military capability is not all about money. As a RAND monograph, "Measuring Military Capability", points out, "Military effectiveness (is) the outcome of the resources provided to the military and its capability to transform these resources into effective warfighting capability. A country may provide its military with generous budgets and large

cadres of manpower, but if the military's doctrine is misguided, the training ineffective, the leadership unschooled, or the organization inappropriate, military capability will suffer."

The military must stop talking in terms of numbers, of squadrons, ships and divisions, and focus on capability. This is much more challenging than harping on raising divisions and squadrons because it confronts us with the crucial issue of defining the type of capability that India needs for future warfighting. It will force us to search for the new and the unexpected, and to look at technologies such as robotics, autonomous systems and artificial intelligence to enhance our military capability.

There is a crying need to move towards greater integration among the three services and with the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The luxury of each service running its own training, administrative and logistics system is no longer affordable. The MoD, staffed entirely by civilians, seems oblivious to defence requirements and follows a procurement process which appears completely broken. An internal report prepared late last year by Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre pointed out that only 8-10% of 144 proposed deals in the last three financial years fructified within the stipulated time period. Greater integration could improve efficiency.

Civil-military differences over defence budgets are an inevitable part of any democracy. However, these differences can be minimised if there is a common understanding of the contours of a national security strategy, and of the genuine requirements of the military for putting this strategy into effect. On its part, the military must focus on capability for future warfighting, not mere numbers.

LT. Gen. (retired) D.S. Hooda is a former Northern Army Commander

First step in a long journey

The National Medical Commission Bill seeks to make structural changes in an exploitative health-care system

quacks. Another fact is that 82.2% of providers of "modern medicine" in rural areas do not have a medical qualification. Rural India, which accounts for 69% of the population, faces another issue – only 21% of the country's doctors serve them.

The quality of the health-care experience too needs attention. It is ironic that, while India is a hub for medical tourism (in 2016, India issued 1.78 lakh medical visas), it is a common sight in government hospitals to have patients sleep in corridors waiting for their outpatient department appointments.

The Bill, among other things, seeks to address these problems.

A commercialisation

The insertion of Section 10A in the Indian Medical Council Act was followed by an exponential rise in the number of private medical colleges. This was encouraged as there was, and still is, a shortfall in the number of medical practitioners. However, the high capitation fees charged by these colleges can have a negative effect in terms of affordability of medical services.

The regulatory authority has been unable to act despite the fact that over half the 60,000 medical students graduating every year are from private medical colleges.

With corruption in the issuing



of licences and regulatory requirements, many such academic institutions have a faculty of questionable standards, with obvious repercussions on the quality of education imparted.

The Bill puts in place a mechanism to assess and rate medical colleges regularly, with a high monetary penalty for failure to comply with standards. Three such failures will result in the de-recognition of a college. There is also an enabling provision for the government to regulate the fees of up to 40% seats in private medical colleges. NITI Aayog data show that this amount falls in a Goldilocks zone, wherein the regulation can be made revenue neutral for the college by nominally raising fees for non-regulated students.

The Bill goes a step further with

a relaxation of the criteria for approving a college in specific cases. Currently, there is a blanket standard for establishing a medical college in India, which disregards the contextual realities in some areas such as difficult terrain or a low population density. For instance, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Nagaland do not have a single medical college.

Inverted pyramid

India has a well-thought-out, three-tier public health-care system which rests on a base of sub-centres (SC) and primary health centres (PHCs) which take care of common ailments. Patients in need of specialist consultations go up the chain to secondary centres (CHCs), or tertiary centres, which are district hospitals (DHs) or medical colleges. However, because of a poor vanguard, patients who can be treated at the "base" (SCs or PHCs), go straight to the "apex" (CHCs or DHs).

Strengthening primary centres can ensure that the pyramid rests on its base again. With the government now planning to revamp 1,50,000 sub-centres into health and wellness centres by 2022, there is need for an equivalent number of mid-level providers. For this, India's 7,70,000 AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy,

Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) practitioners can be tapped.

The Bill has facilitated this by providing for a bridge course for AYUSH/non-allopathic doctors. This course, to be designed by a joint sitting of all medicine systems, will ensure that non-allopathic doctors are trained to prescribe modern medicines in a limited way, within the scope of primary care. A parallel is the system of "barefoot doctors" in China.

Thirteen States now permit AYUSH doctors to prescribe varying levels of allopathic care. The NMC Bill will bring in a homogenisation of such rules without diluting the varied systems of medicines.

An added measure in the Bill prevents "cross-path" or the unequalled cross-over of health-care providers from one system to another. The Bill provides for two separate national registers – allopathic doctors, and AYUSH doctors who complete the bridge course, respectively.

In the end, the Bill seeks to make structural changes in a stagnant and increasingly exploitative health-care system. While it is no magic bullet, it should be looked at as a step in the right direction.

Ruha Shadab, a physician and health strategist, is with NITI Aayog

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Farmer friendly?

Appeasement of farmers in the run-up to any major election is the order of the day in Indian politics. "Farm loan waiver" is one of the tools used most often in the repertoire of appeasement gimmicks ("Ahead of 2019, Congress fixes focus on farmers", March 18). The problem here is that if implemented, the balance sheets of banks begin to take a hit; if not, farmers are out demanding its implementation. But is a "farm loan waiver" the best solution in resolving India's perpetual agrarian crisis? Political parties must take concrete steps to nurse Indian agriculture back to good health. A resolve to implement the M.S. Swaminathan Committee Report will reveal how sincere they are about this.

UTKARSH AGRAWAL, Allahabad

■ The farmers' march in Maharashtra, organised and conducted in a spellbinding way, is an example of how protests in a democracy should function (Editorial – "A model protest", March 14). It was silent enough not to disrupt daily life in the financial capital, and at the same time powerful enough to make the government sit up and take note. The Central and State governments should be aware of the efficacy of a peaceful but resolute protest. By accepting their legitimate demands, the Maharashtra government has set the right example.

VAIBHAV CHATURKAR, New Delhi

■ One is happy to know that besides the model protest there is a generation of urban dwellers which can remember what it felt like to be connected to the land in a

real sense'. They can be the 'bridges' to reconnect 'what divides' rural and urban India. The challenge is to bring urban dwellers and rural farmers together on the same page by creating understanding and supporting their different needs.

K.M.K. MURTHY, Seemurabad

At the plenary

The speakers at the Congress's plenary session wasted a golden opportunity to restore the party's fast crumbling image by preferring instead to launch a scathing attack on the government ("Rahul quotes elites in attack on BJP", March 19). An occasion like this should have been utilised to focus on the future. The ill-founded accusation levelled at the session that the economy is being mismanaged needs to

be rejected. Congress politicians have an undeniable role in the numerous scams and their probity is far from satisfactory. Even now, the party lacks an agenda to get back to power, if the speeches are any indication.

V. LAKSHMANAN, Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

The TB fight

As a small step towards stopping the spread of tuberculosis in India we need to stop spitting/expectorating on open spaces, especially hard surfaces. If this is done on soil, the person should take steps to cover the affected patch with soil. TB patients should assist in steps being taken by health-care workers to not only safeguard themselves but also help protect others. Effective measures at the grass-root level should begin at home as the government

cannot be expected to handle everything. Given the rise in extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, we must recognise the urgency in ensuring a TB-free world (Editorial page, "The long fight against TB", March 17).

DR. S. MURUGAN, Coimbatore

Scoring a bullseye

In the last-ball six hit, Dinsh Karthik not only helped India win the Nidahas T20

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the OpEd article titled "The Skripals in Salisbury" (March 19, 2018) the reference to the first "offensive use" of a nuclear weapon in Europe since the Second World War should be corrected to read as the first "offensive use" of a chemical weapon in Europe since the Second World War.

In "Summit on the hills" (OpEd article, March 19, 2018) had erroneously referred to an organisation called the Gorkha National Liberation Fund. It should have been the Gorkha National Liberation Front.

In "The ecologically subsidised city" (March 08, 2018, Editorial page article), the monetary value of nature's capacity to treat 750 million litres of wastewater per day was stated to be over \$25 billion (\$162,500 crore) annually. It should have been \$750 crore.

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Time to move beyond subsidies

The U.S. complaint to the WTO against India's export promotion schemes is a wake-up call



BISWAJIT DHAR

India's export promotion schemes face an uncertain future after the United States Trade Representative (USTR) decided to challenge their legality in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The complaint of the USTR is that India is violating its commitments under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement) using five of the most used export promotion schemes, namely, the export-oriented units scheme and sector-specific schemes, including electronics hardware technology parks scheme, merchandise exports from India scheme, export promotion capital goods scheme, special economic zones and duty-free import authorisation scheme.

Terms and conditions

The main argument of the USTR is that India's five export promotion schemes violate Articles 3.1(a) and 3.2 of the SCM Agreement, since the two provisions prohibit granting of export subsidies. Until 2015, India had the flexibility to use export subsidies as it is among the 20 developing countries included in Annex VII of the agreement that are allowed to use these subsidies as long as they per capita Gross National Product (GNP) had not crossed \$1,000, at constant 1990 dollars, for three consecutive years. This provision applicable to the Annex VII countries was an exception to the special provisions provided to the developing countries (the so-called "special and differential treatment") for phasing out export subsidies. Except Annex VII countries, all other developing countries were allowed a period of eight years from the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, i.e. 1995, to eliminate export subsidies.

That India had crossed the \$1,000 GNP per capita threshold in 2015 became known when the WTO Secretariat produced its calculations in 2017. An interpretation provided in a 2001 report of the Chairman of the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing



"Contrary to the pronouncements made in the Foreign Trade Policy, the government has continued to increase its outlays on export promotion schemes." Containers stacked in Kochi, Kerala. ■ K.K. MUSTAFAH

Measures, which is also considered as the document providing the methodology for implementing Annex VII of the agreement, says that countries like India must eliminate export subsidies immediately upon crossing the above-mentioned threshold. In the Doha negotiations, India and several other Annex VII countries sought an amendment to the agreement so as to enable them to get a transition period.

Extension sought

In a submission made in 2011, India, along with Bolivia, Egypt, Honduras, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka, argued that the Annex VII countries should be eligible to enjoy the provisions applicable to the other developing countries, namely, those that had GNP per capita above the threshold. The latter set of countries was required to phase out their export subsidies within eight years of joining the WTO. Additionally, they were allowed to enter into consultations with the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, not later than one year before the expiry of the transition period, to determine if there was a justification for the extension of this period, after examining all of their relevant economic, financial and development needs. But this proposal, like all other proposals

made as a part of the Doha Round negotiations, remains unaddressed.

What needs to be done

It needs to be pointed out that this is not the first time that the U.S. has put India's export promotion schemes under the scanner; although this is the first instance when its Trade Administration has initiated a WTO dispute involving these schemes. In 2010, the U.S. had questioned the export incentives provided to the textiles and clothing sector as a whole, arguing that this sector had a share in global trade exceeding 3.25% and had therefore become export competitive. The U.S. pointed out that according to Article 27.5 of the SCM Agreement, any Annex VII developing country which had reached export competitiveness in one or more products must gradually phase out export subsidies on such products over a period of eight years. There was, therefore, considerable pressure on the Department of Commerce to consider its future strategies regarding export promotion schemes.

It was perhaps the pressure that spoke when the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) of the National Democratic Alliance government unveiled in 2015 did some serious introspection about the future of export promotion

schemes, the first time that any government had done so. The policymakers recognised that the extant WTO rules and those under negotiation were aimed at eventually phasing out export subsidies. The FTP took this as a pointer to the direction which export promotion efforts in the country must take in the future: a movement towards more fundamental systemic measures and away from incentives and subsidies. A similar note was sounded in the mid-term review of the FTP released in December 2017. This document was significant also because the Indian government showed its awareness that the country was at the verge of losing the benefits of being an Annex VII country.

Contrary to the pronouncements made in the FTP, the government has continued to increase its outlays on export promotion schemes. In 2016-17, the total outlay on export promotion schemes was \$58,600 crore, an increase of more than 28% in three years. During this period, the largest export promotion scheme in place currently, the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), was introduced to promote exports by offsetting the infrastructural inefficiencies faced by exports of specified goods and to provide a level playing field. The scheme initially covered 4,914 tariff lines and was subsequently increased to cover 7,914 tariff lines. In recent months, there has been a two-fold expansion of the scheme: one, to enhance the MEIS rates of ready-made garments from 2% to 4%; and two, to increase the MEIS benefits for all labour-intensive and MSME sector products by 2%. These expansions in the scope of MEIS increased the total outlay on the scheme to nearly 60% over the level in 2016-17.

The utility of export subsidies to promote exports has long been questioned. While the real impact of these subsidies has never been clearly measured, what has been quite evident is they have benefited the rent-seekers. There is, therefore, a strong case for the government to invest in trade-related infrastructure and trade facilitation measures, which can deliver tangible results on the export front.

Biswajit Dhar is Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University

A move to equivalence

After the agreement with France, India must hold bilateral talks for degree recognition with other countries



SHAHANA MUNAZIR

Several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements were signed between France and India recently on French President Emmanuel Macron's visit. The most important of these was the landmark agreement signed at the 'Knowledge Summit' between the two countries on mutual recognition of educational qualifications, the first of its kind. This provides an opportunity for India to refine its policy on higher education by inking such pacts with other countries, thereby seamlessly integrating the Indian student community across the world.

Current policy framework

According to government data, there were an estimated 5 lakh Indian students pursuing degrees in higher education abroad in 2017, mostly in the U.S., the U.K., and the European Union. However, it is ironic that many who are trained at the best universities abroad are unable to share their expertise in Indian universities. This can be principally attributed to the problem of degree recognition.

In the current policy framework, the issue of recognition of academic qualifications is dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), which provides Indian students with equivalence certificates based on eligibility requirements and the duration of courses. The agreement with France is the first such MoU where the two countries have reached a consensus despite a difference in the duration of their various academic programmes. This means that even a one-year master's degree will be recognised here. In the current system, if a person has a postgraduate degree from abroad, an equivalence certificate is essential to pursue a PhD or qualify for a career in academia through the Junior Research Fellowship-National Eligibility Test (JRF-NET). Returnee students from foreign universities need to apply for equivalence certificates, but students who hold one-year degrees from abroad are immediately ousted from the Indian system. In this way, scholars are penalised for studying at world-class institutions in their area of in-

terest in which Indian universities have very little to offer. This ad hoc arrangement for recognition of degrees has discouraged students from pursuing research careers in India. Rather, it precipitates their departure to other global destinations. In other words, this assumes the shape of a state-sponsored colonial policy of brain drain.

Robust policy for higher education

This case-by-case approach in recognising degrees isn't a robust policy, particularly for improving standards of higher education. Herein lies the importance of countries across the world to move away from diplomatic constraints and maintain an image of exceptionalism when it comes to exchanging and disseminating knowledge. However, dependence on diplomatic mechanisms without a robust policy for recognising degrees would mean that Indian universities will continue to lag behind world standards. The aim of establishing "world-class" institutions in India cannot materialise without first utilising the knowledge and expertise that their own Indian scholars have to offer.

The MoU between France and India means that India is now in the position to hold bilateral talks for degree recognition with other countries too, such as the U.K. with which India shares deep historical ties. According to the latest data furnished by the U.K. Higher Education Statistics Agency, in 2016-17, 16,550 Indian students went to the U.K. for higher studies. Of these, 70-80% went for postgraduate programmes mainly with a one-year duration. Despite such a strong case for mutual recognition, students are left in the lurch. The earlier provision of a six-month bridge course introduced by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in 2013 to ensure recognition of one-year master's degrees from the U.K. has been discontinued by the current government. It's not just the MA degree, the two-year MPhil courses from some of the best universities are also not recognised as equivalent to even a lower-level master's degree in India, if the student does not possess a two-year master's degree before the MPhil. This is despite the fact that some of these degrees have been partially or fully supported by the Indian government with a condition to revert and contribute to their home country.

The bilateral pact with France is a good start that needs to be taken forward.

Shahana Munazir is a policy and legislative aide with M.V. Rajeev Gowda, MP Rajya Sabha

SINGLE FILE

Treaty that backfired?

The Shimla Agreement did not fully achieve any of India's objectives

MOHAMMED AYOOB



THE HINDU ARCHIVES

The Shimla Agreement of 1972 was expected to be a milestone in India-Pakistan relations, for not only did it end Pakistan's suzerainty, but India also held 93,000 prisoners of war (POWs) who could constitute a major bargaining chip with Pakistan.

India had three primary objectives at Shimla. First, a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue or, failing that, an agreement that would constrain Pakistan from involving third parties in discussions about the future of Kashmir. Second, it was hoped that the Shimla Agreement would allow for a new beginning in relations with Pakistan based upon Pakistan's acceptance of the new balance of power. Third, it left open the possibility of achieving both these objectives without pushing Pakistan to the wall and creating a revanchist anti-India regime.

There was a near-consensus among Indian policymakers that India must not pull a "Versailles" on Pakistan. A humiliated Pakistan, it was argued, would inevitably turn revanchist. This was the reason India did not force Pakistan to convert the ceasefire line in Kashmir into the international boundary when Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto ruled out this option. It accepted the term Line of Control (LoC) instead, thus delinking it from UN resolutions and highlighting that Kashmir was a purely bilateral affair.

India was inclined to return the POWs but was constrained from doing so because they had surrendered to the joint India-Bangladesh command and could not be returned without the latter's concurrence. Dhaka made it clear that it would not return the POWs until Islamabad recognised Bangladesh, thus delaying the POWs' return until 1974.

However, despite its soft line on Kashmir and the POWs, India was unable to prevent the military from taking power in Islamabad in 1977 and executing Bhutto. General Zia-ul-Haq's coup had a major bearing on India's other objectives. Zia's strategy was to use the Afghan insurgency in the 1980s to acquire sophisticated arms from the U.S. and induce Washington to ignore Pakistan's clandestine quest for nuclear weapons. Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear capability created a situation of deterrence negating India's superiority in conventional power and instead de facto military parity between the two countries. The 1999 Kargil War validated the success of deterrence when India desisted from taking the war into Pakistani territory. Deterrence also provided the shield for the Pakistani military to take the "war" into Indian Kashmir through its proxies, the terrorist groups created and supported by the ISI. Nuclear weapons prevented India from retaliating on Pakistani territory.

The Shimla Agreement did not fully achieve any of India's objectives. If anything, it may have whetted the Pakistani military's appetite to try to turn Kashmir into India's Bangladesh.

Mohammed Ayooob is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University, and Senior Fellow, Center for Global Policy, Washington, DC



SURENDRA

CONCEPTUAL Anchor store BUSINESS

This refers to any retail outlet in a mall or a shopping complex which serves as the main source of attraction for customers. The presence of an anchor store helps other stores in the mall, which cannot draw customers on their own, to do business that they would not otherwise. An anchor store may be a supermarket or popular retail brand that attracts crowds. Malls try to accommodate multiple anchor stores on their premises in a way that it maximizes footfall as well as spending by consumers. The death of anchor stores can have a huge impact as it could also affect other smaller businesses that depend on it.

MORE ON THE WEB

12-year-old learns to walk at Mumbai hospital

<http://bit.ly/RehmatShaikhwalk>

ABSTRACT

The price of privilege

Biased legal rules can have a harmful consequence

PRASHANTH PERUMAL.J.

Many tend to believe that the best way to help a group of people may be to offer them special legal privileges that others do not enjoy. In India, for instance, governments looking to capture power often allow distressed borrowers to stop paying their loans. The lenders in such cases do not possess sufficient legal protection to uphold their contractual rights. Economic history suggests that such legal bias, however, may not be the best way to do good to people. This is because, according to "The financial power of the powerless: Socio-economic status and interest rates under partial rule of law", a paper by Timur Kuran and Jared Rubin published in *The Economic Journal*, there are long-term costs associated with such bias.

Kuran and Rubin stu-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

due, is due to the fact that in the eyes of the lenders, the borrowers who were protected by biased courts became high-risk individuals who were more likely to default. The lenders had very little legal protection to recover their dues. So, in response, they cut down their lending to these groups, which in turn caused interest rates to rise.

Legal rules biased in favour of privileged groups can thus have the harmful consequence of raising their borrowing rates. This applies not just to elites but also to disadvantaged groups that seem to require any special treatment. When the law is biased in favour of the poor, through, say, provisions that allow them to default on their loans, it can end up hurting them eventually as lenders would begin to cut down lending to the poor.

FROM THE HINDU ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 20, 1968

New taxes in U.K.

The British Government piled extra taxes on a huge range of goods from cigarettes to motor cars to-day [March 19] in the toughest national budget ever known in this country. A total of £923 million was expected to accrue to the Treasury from the new duties on drinking, smoking, gambling, petrol and thousands of everyday goods in the shops. At the same time, a legal limit of three and a half per cent per year was ordered on all pay rises and company dividend increases. The moves were announced in the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Roy Jenkins.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 20, 1918.

War Cabinet.

The War Cabinet's report for 1917 is now published in extenso [London]. It contains illuminating information regarding the War Cabinet's working methods and describes how each meeting begins with the hearing of reports on the progress of the war since the previous day. The Cabinet then deals with questions awaiting decision unless wider questions of policy are discussed. In the former case, Ministers and the chief departmental officials concerned attend. Important matters of administration are deliberated with a view to departmental co-ordination so as to form part of a consistent war plan and Ministers invited to bring outside experts if desired. 248 outsiders thus attended in 1917 and tendered their views on Foreign Dominions, Indian, Colonial and Home Affairs. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, First Sea Lord and Chief of Imperial Staff attend every meeting and command the latest war intelligence and consult with the War Cabinet on new points.

DATA POINT

Measuring wealth

India ranks 119 of the 140 nations that were surveyed for the average wealth owned per person, according to a recent World Bank report.

A country's assets or wealth measured comprehensively to include produced capital, natural capital, human capital, and net foreign assets can be used as an indicator of sustainability to complement GDP, says the study

Rank	Country	Average wealth owned per person
1	Norway	16,71,756
2	Qatar	15,97,125
3	Switzerland	14,66,757
8	United States	9,83,280
40	Brazil	1,88,883
41	Russia	1,88,715
55	China	1,08,172
69	South Africa	77,348
87	Sri Lanka	44,970
112	Pakistan	22,182
119	India	18,211
129	Nepal	14,368
125	Bangladesh	12,714

Wealth estimates are in 2014 U.S. \$ per capita at market exchange rates Source: The Changing Wealth of Nations 2018 report

FROM PAGE ONE

Mamata, KCR move to form federal front

"We have started the dialogue. Let us approach other political parties," Ms. Banerjee said, adding that sometimes situations arise in politics where many political parties have to come together. She, however, said that there is "no hurry" and such bigger political initiatives require time.

Referring to the BJP, Ms. Banerjee said the political party which rules the country "must not feel proud" and think that "they will rule the country as they feel like". Asked about the Congress seeking cooperation

of all like-minded parties to take on the BJP, Ms. Banerjee said all parties are entitled to have their own opinion.

"Whatever Mr. Rao has said I fully agree with. He has expressed his views, what is the harm? Rahul also expressed his views yesterday. He never asked us. So, they can say their views and we can say our views," she added.

On the question of who would lead the proposed front, Mr. Rao said it would be a "collective and federal leadership".

Lalu convicted in fodder scam case

Of the 31 accused in the case, 19, including Mr. Prasad, were found guilty. Twelve, including former Bihar chief minister Jagannath Mishra, were acquitted.

Earlier, the court had postponed the judgment on Thursday in view of Mr. Prasad's counsel filing a petition under 319 CrPc, asking that three former officials of the Accountant General's office (in 1990s) be made a party to the case. The special CBI court of judge Shiv Pal Singh had allowed admission of the petition.

Meanwhile, senior RD leader Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and other party lead-

ers asked how Mr. Prasad could be convicted in the same case when the other accused persons were being acquitted.

"We'll appeal in higher courts against the verdict and we're sure to get justice," Mr. Singh said in Ranchi. Mr. Prasad's wife Rabri Devi said, "We were hoping for relief from the court today. We respect the court's judgment. We will appeal in higher courts now." The fifth case of the fodder scam against Mr. Prasad is related to an alleged fraudulent withdrawal of ₹139 crore from the Doranda treasury in Ranchi.

Junaid's father moves SC seeking CBI probe

Mr. Jalaluddin, represented by advocates Tarannum Cheema, Smriti Suresh and Ashok Karthik, said the State police tried to portray a "one-sided hate attack" as a "clash" between two groups.

The police investigation, being more than shoddy, deliberately introduced ambiguity in several crucial points. "The conduct of the named accused and others as a lynching mob has been concealed. It has been projected as if the occurrence/events were sudden without

any element of perpetrators having been acted in conspiracy... The investigating agency deliberately acted with undue haste because the crime had caused a nationwide outcry. The investigation was so managed as to minimise the damage to the marauders and ensure their release on bail," the petition contended.

The petition said the probe so far had ensured that the victims would not get justice. Mr. Jalaluddin said his family was also in danger.

Sehrai named Geelani's successor

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH), headed by 87-year-old Syed Ali Geelani, on Monday announced that Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, 78, is the new chairman of the separatist amalgam, clearing the decks for a "smooth transition" of leadership.

"In a unanimous decision taken in an extraordinary meeting of the Majlis-e-Shoorah, its highest decision-making body, the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat appointed Mr. Sehrai as an interim chairman till the organisational elections to be held late this year," said a Hurriyat spokesman.

Hurriyat sources said Mr. Geelani "was not keeping well of late due to multiple ailments and frequently complains of feeling tired and weak".

He has already undergone surgeries for heart and kidney ailments in the past. Sources said Mr. Geelani "was under pressure from his cadre and party leaders for the past two years to announce a successor for the influential separatists' grouping to avoid any confusion in case of any eventuality".

Mr. Geelani will remain the chairman of the Hurriyat faction, which is a conglomerate of many separatist groups including the TeH. The move, however, paves the way for Mr. Sehrai to take over the Hurriyat leadership in the future.

Tempered anniversary fete for U.P. govt.

Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party boycotts celebrations, says BJP is playing big brother

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government marked its first year in power in Uttar Pradesh with a grand cultural event and the launch of a book of achievements on Monday. However, the occasion was boycotted by its alliance partner, the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), which has accused the BJP of "not following coalition dharma (duty)" and of "being arrogant".

The party, which has four MLAs, has threatened to boycott the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections unless BJP president Amit Shah agrees to hold talks with its leader Om Prakash Rajbhar, who is a Cabinet Minister in the

State. Mr. Rajbhar has said that after his talks with Mr. Adityanath and Sunil Bansal, the BJP's organisation secretary in U.P., bore no results, he reached out to Mr. Shah, but despite writing him a dozen times, no response had been forthcoming.

"We will boycott the voting if they [the BJP] don't talk. They can celebrate as much as they want. Backwards [Backward Classes] and Dalits must unite. They are not united - that's why they don't get their due. We got votes to act as their voice. If that is rebellion, then I am a rebel," Mr. Rajbhar said.

The BJP has adequate number of MLAs to get eight candidates elected to the Up-

per House, but its ninth candidate is nine votes short.

If the SBSP boycotts, it will become even more difficult to push through the extra candidate.

The ally, however, has not indicated that it is ready to walk out.

"No reason to celebrate" The cracks in the alliance became visible after Mr. Rajbhar went on record to state that the government had no reason to celebrate its first year in power and criticised it for focussing "only on temples at the cost of the welfare of the poor, Dalits and BCs".

He has had a shaky relationship with the saffron party ever since he formed an alliance with it.

Nirbhaya's mother flays ex-DGP's remarks

Sangliana's comments reflect inherent patriarchy, are a disrespect to my daughter, says Asha Devi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A former police chief's advice to girls and women to "surrender" to the physical assault from sexual predators to save their lives "at least", has prompted Asha Devi, mother of the 2012 Delhi gang rape victim, Nirbhaya, to write an open letter to him expressing her outrage.

Adding to Ms. Devi's revulsion were comments by



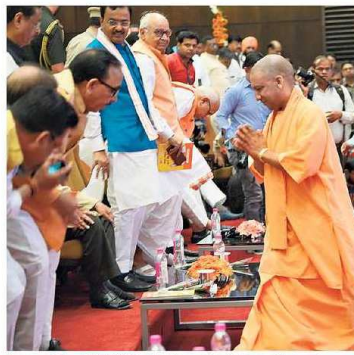
H.T. Sangliana

former Karnataka Director General of Police H.T. Sangliana on her physique and its apparent correlation to

her daughter's beauty during his speech at the Nirbhaya Awards 2018 function on International Women's Day in Bengaluru earlier this month.

In his speech, Mr. Sangliana, who has since sought to clarify his remarks, said: "When I look at her [Nirbhaya's mother], her physique is very, very nice. Then how beautiful Nirbhaya could have been."

Ms. Devi, who had been



A year older: U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath at the anniversary celebrations in Lucknow on Monday. • RAJEEV BHATT

invited to give away the awards, told *The Hindu* on Sunday, "I travelled as far as I did to express my solidarity with girls and women who met similar, but thankfully not the same, fate as my daughter on what happened to be a day supposedly dedicated to us and this is what he said to me."

"I don't understand the language so I didn't react when I was on the stage. It was only later when a very

senior lady police officer, who was naturally enraged by the comment too, pulled me aside and told me what he had said that I realised the magnitude of his words," Ms. Devi said.

"Not only have you disrespected my daughter's protest at what she was being subjected to but also illustrated the cheap and patriarchal attitude of our society at large," she wrote in her letter.

TDP sees design in AIADMK, TRS protest

Opposition blames the two parties for creating commotion, but they say will continue agitation for just demands

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and other Opposition parties on Monday blamed the All India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and the Telangana Rashtriya Samiti (TRS) for stalling a no-confidence motion against the government in the Lok Sabha.

The two parties, however, insisted that they would continue their protests. Hence, the hopes for a debate have faded.

For the second day running, the no-confidence motion moved by the TDP and the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) could not be taken up because of protests by the AIADMK, which has 37 MPs, and the TRS with 11 MPs.



Joint effort: Telugu Desam Party MPs and Congress MP Renuka Chowdhary protest outside Parliament. • SANDEEP SAXENA

'Mockery of democracy'

"I cannot show you any proof, but definitely it looks like a concerted effort. We are investigating it. The BJP has made a mockery of democracy; they are trying to stall a debate in the Lok Sabha by encouraging these protests," former Minister and Parliamentary Party

leader of TDP Y.S. Chowdhary said.

The TDP boycotted the Speaker's lunch organised on the occasion of Gudi Padwa, protesting against her decision not to take up the debate.

The YSRCP blamed the BJP rather than the protests.

"We can't blame the AIADMK or the TRS directly, because they too are protesting for people's issues. We pleaded with both parties today [Monday] to give us merely 10 minutes so that the motion can be moved," Ongole MP Y.V. Subba Reddy said.

Mr. Reddy questioned the reasoning that the no-confidence motion could not be taken up because of lack of order in the House.

"Didn't the government clear the Union Budget in greater din? There are only a handful of TRS and AIADMK MPs in the well; the Finance

BJP behind the drama in Parliament: Naidu

STAFF REPORTER
VJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has alleged that the BJP got the no-confidence motion moved by a particular party and prompted another to disrupt the proceedings in Parliament to get the ongoing session adjourned.

This was part of the politics of connivance being played by the BJP, Mr. Naidu told MPs, MLAs and senior leaders in a teleconference.

He asked the leaders to continue their protests and mount pressure on the Cen-

tral government to concede the State's legitimate demands.

The Chief Minister asked the MPs to expose those harming the interests of the State, and reiterated that there was no going back on the struggle for Special Category Status and the implementation of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act.

State Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnu also asked whether the BJP feared that its own MPs would go against the party line in the event of voting taking place on the motion.

Bill was cleared when more than 100 MPs were protesting," he said.

"Parliament can't function according to the TDP's whims and fancies. They decide to pull out of government at their wish, then they took their own time to exit the NDA. We are only con-

cerned with demands of our own people," Jitender Reddy, floor leader for the TRS in the Lok Sabha, said.

Even as the AIADMK is continuing protests demanding the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board, the DMK has called for a halt to the protests.

2G case: ED challenges verdict

Moves HC against acquittal of A. Raja, Kanimozhi in a money laundering case

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday moved the Delhi High Court challenging a Special CBI court verdict acquitting former Telecom Minister A. Raja, DMK MP Kanimozhi and others in a money-laundering case arising out of the 2G case.

The ED submitted that the court, while acquitting all 10 individuals and nine entities, did not properly appreciate the facts and evidence in the case.

'No proceeds'

On December 21 last year, the dismissed the ED's charge of money laundering, saying there was no "proceeds of crime" as all accused had been acquitted in the main case filed by the CBI.

The ED's case is that Mr. Raja received illegal gratifica-



Brewing trouble: A file photo of DMK leaders A. Raja and Kanimozhi in Chennai after their acquittal in the 2G case. • PTI

tion of ₹200 crore for favours shown by him to Swan Telecom Private Ltd. while granting 13 UAS licences and allocation of spectrum in 2008-09.

The ED alleged that ₹200 crore was paid by companies of the Dynamix Balwa Group through the partnership firm Dynamix Realty, Kusegaon Fruits and Vegetables Private Ltd. and Cineyug Films Private Ltd., which was ultimate-

ly parked in Kalaigarn TV Private Ltd.

'Court misdirected' The amount was returned along with an additional sum just to show the receipt of illegal payment as bona fide financial transaction, the ED said.

In its appeal, the directorate contended that the CBI court was "misdirected" in holding that the money-lau-

dering offence had not taken place merely because of acquittals in the CBI case.

The agency said the accused were acquitted on the ground that the CBI case did not stand, ignoring the judgment by various courts holding money laundering as an independent offence.

The ED argued that the CBI court failed to appreciate that the Supreme Court had examined a large number of documents and ordered cancellation of 122 licences granted during Mr. Raja's tenure.

The CBI court dismissed the CBI's case against the accused in the 2G spectrum allocation case saying, "There is no evidence on the record produced indicating any criminality in the acts allegedly committed by the accused relating to... transfer of ₹200 crore to Kalaigarn TV as illegal gratification."

Centre plans law on online 'hate speech'

Law Commission asked to make draft

VJAYITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Moving a step ahead towards framing a distinct law for online "hate speech", the Home Ministry has written to the Law Commission to prepare a draft law. The provisions will deal with offensive messages sent through social media and online messaging applications.

The decision came after a committee headed by former Lok Sabha Secretary-General T.K. Viswanathan submitted a report recommending stricter laws to curb online hate speech. The panel was formed after Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, was scrapped by the Supreme Court in 2015.

The scrapped provision provided punishment for sending offensive messages through communication services.

Imperfect data

A senior National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) official said there was no comprehensive data available on cases in which rumours and hate speech insinuations were made through social media and WhatsApp.

"Such crimes are being registered under various other sections like sedition or other sections of the Information Technology Act. If the law is amended, it will provide us with the extent of the problem," said the offi-



T.K. Viswanathan

cial. The 267th report of the Law Commission had recommended inserting additional provisions in Sections 153 and 505 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Punishment and fine

The proposed 153 C (b) IPC - "Incitement to hatred" - recommended that the crime be punishable by two years' imprisonment and a ₹5,000 fine or both.

A senior Home Ministry official said the Law Commission had been asked to include its earlier recommendations, and those from the Viswanathan and M.P. Bezbaruah committees, to give a "comprehensive draft law."

The Bezbaruah committee had proposed to insert two stricter anti-racial discrimination provisions in the IPC. Only Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep agreed to the Centre's proposal.

IN BRIEF



Kejriwal opposes Jaitley's defamation suit

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday opposed in the Delhi High Court the second ₹10 crore defamation suit filed against him by Union Minister Arun Jaitley over the use of an objectionable word by Mr. Kejriwal's former lawyer Ram Jethmalani. Mr. Kejriwal claimed before Justice Manmohan that he had never instructed his then counsel to use scandalous words against Mr. Jaitley during recording of evidence in the open court.

Young Indian told to deposit ₹10 cr. in I-T case

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday directed Young Indian Pvt. Ltd., in which Congress president Rahul Gandhi and his mother Sonia Gandhi are majority stakeholders, to deposit ₹10 crore with the Income Tax Department against the ₹249.15 crore tax demand against the company. The court directed the company to deposit half the amount before March 31 and the remaining by April 15. On deposit, the tax authorities shall not enforce the demand of ₹249.15 crore for the 2011-12.

Chargesheet against ex-Canara Bank CMD

NEW DELHI
The CBI on Monday filed a chargesheet against R.K. Dubey, then Chairman and Managing Director of Canara Bank, and five other senior functionaries for allegedly cheating the bank of ₹69.38 crore in a conspiracy with the directors of the Delhi-based Occasion Silver Private Ltd. The charge sheet alleges that the company did not repay the loans given by a Delhi branch. The loans sanctioned in December 2013 turned NPAs in September 2014.

U.S. wants India on board to ease Rohingya crisis

Offers to work together to help Bangladesh with refugee camps ahead of the monsoon, which can flood the main camps in Cox's Bazaar

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI
Amid growing worries about the coming monsoon that could flood a third of the main Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh, Washington has offered to partner with New Delhi on joint efforts to assist Bangladesh.

Confirming the offer, a senior U.S. administration official said, "We think India also has an interest in seeing this situation resolved."

"We will look for ways to work with India to provide for the needs of the Rohingya in Bangladesh, but also to work together to create that pressure on Burma [Myanmar] to create the conditions required for their safe and voluntary return," added the official, calling India a "like-minded" partner.

The offer was made during a recent visit to the region by Deputy Assistant to U.S. President Donald Trump and the Director for South and Central Asia, Lisa Curtis, as well as Director for India and the Indian Ocean

Basant Sanghera. Ms. Curtis, who travelled to Dhaka and Delhi during an extended visit that included Kabul and Islamabad, also visited the main Kutapalong-Balukhali camp in Bangladesh, which is now the world's single largest refugee camp, housing about 600,000 people.

Meets Foreign Secretary
After meeting officials of the UN Inter-sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and the Bangladesh government from March 1 to 4, the U.S. delegation met Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and other officials on March 5, in an unpublicised visit to Delhi. Mr. Gokhale met Ms. Curtis and State Department officials during his visit to Washington last week, where cooperation on Bangladesh was discussed.

The Foreign Secretary is now expected to visit Dhaka in April, while a number of Ministers will visit Bangladesh in the next few months to "take the development partnership agenda to its conclusion," an External Af-



Refugee flow: A Bangladesh border guard pushes Rohingya to the no-man's land at Teknaf in Bangladesh. • GETTY IMAGES

fairs Ministry official said.

While the official accepted that the U.S. proposal for a joint effort to aid Bangladesh was being discussed at the Foreign Secretary level, the Ministry declined to comment on whether the U.S. and India would work on joint measures to "pressure" Myanmar to repatriate the Rohingya. While the U.S. has called the action of Myanmar authorities in driving nearly a million Rohingya men, women and children out of vil-

lages, a case of "ethnic cleansing" and threatened targeted sanctions against the officials responsible, India has been comparatively silent on the issue in an effort to keep its ties with Nay Pyi Taw intact.

The U.S. proposal to India may be seen as an attempt to counter China that had last year brokered a repatriation agreement signed by Bangladesh and Myanmar. The agreement, however, is yet to be implemented.

The big ask

\$950 million: The UN's Inter-sector Coordination Group (ISCG) has sought the sum for food and shelter for the next year, warning that the monsoon from April to June and the cyclone season can seriously hamper relief efforts.

16 million litres of drinking water every day

12,200 tonnes of food

200 health centres

50,000 toilets

5,000 classrooms

The Kutapalong-Balukhali camp in Bangladesh, which houses 600,000 people, is now the world's single largest refugee camp.

Did not deny them medical care: govt.

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

India has not denied basic medical care to a single Rohingya – man, woman or child – living here, the Union government said in the Supreme Court on Monday.

The government does not discriminate between an Indian and a non-Indian while providing medical care in public hospitals, the Centre said, addressing allegations that Rohingya living in refugee camps were denied health care in government medical establishments.

"There is not a single reported case in which Indians or non-Indians are denied treatment ... In fact, any person living in India is not denied permission for medical care," Additional Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta ad-

ressed a Bench led by Chief Justice Dipak Misra.

Mr. Mehta went on to question the "interest" of the PIL petitioners. "There is a spate of PILs. What is the genesis of these PILs? Some day, Your Lordships may have to go into that," the law officer submitted.

"The interest of humanity," countered advocate Prashant Bhushan, for the PIL petitioners, who are Rohingya living in India.

"Are the children of Rohingya not entitled to basic facilities of education and health," Mr. Bhushan asked in court.

Senior advocate Ashwini Kumar asked why the government "always brings up the bogey of destabilisation when an issue of human rights come up".

Pakistani woman says she met Shami as a fan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The controversy surrounding Mohammad Shami took another turn on Monday as a Pakistani woman, Alishba, said she met him in Dubai but denied any monetary dealings.

Ms. Alishba's name surfaced in the controversy after Shami's wife, Hasin Jahan, alleged that he could have been in a relationship with the Pakistani woman.

"Yes, I met him. I am a

frequent flyer to Dubai because my sister stays in Sharjah. As a person, I really like Shami. As any fan that has idolised a celebrity, they always dream of meeting their idol. I had the desire to meet him [Shami] like any other fan would want to, which I don't think is a big deal," Alishba told AFP News.

Shami had been booked after his wife lodged a complaint of domestic violence and infidelity against him.

Nirav indirectly challenging case: ED

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday urged the Delhi High Court to dismiss the plea of Nirav Modi-owned Firestar Diamond International Private Ltd. challenging certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

"He [Mr. Nirav Modi] is a fugitive and absconder. Such a person who is evading the law and has declined to submit to the jurisdiction of the agencies is not entitled to in-



Nirav Modi

voke the extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution. On this ground alone, the petition

deserves to be dismissed," the ED's affidavit said.

Additional Solicitor-General Sandeep Sethi, representing the ED, told the court that Mr. Modi, facing an investigation in the Punjab National Bank fraud case, was trying to abuse the process of law by moving the plea through his company.

The agency said Mr. Modi was "indirectly" challenging the money laundering case lodged in connection with the scam.

Firestar Diamond, which

is named as one of the accused in the money laundering case, has sought an interim stay of ED proceedings.

But the ED, in its affidavit filed before a Bench of Justices S. Muralidhar and I.S. Mehta, contended that the application for interim orders was "not maintainable" as the investigation was at a nascent stage.

The ED said it was now at the stage of search and seizure and retention of records and was not taking possession of attached or

frozen properties as apprehended by Firestar Diamond.

Firestar Diamond had moved the High Court also seeking quashing of seizure of its movable properties by the ED.

The ED has provisionally attached some immovable assets of the Nirav Modi group as part of its action against the diamond trader and his uncle, Mehul Choksi, in connection with the fraudulent Letters of Undertaking case.

Taxman cometh for the military

Additional GST burden adds to problem of insufficient budgetary allocation

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Reeling under an insufficient budgetary allocation for modernisation, the military has a new financial challenge: the Goods and Services Tax. A recent report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence says the tax will result in an additional burden of ₹5,000 crore on the Army alone.

"The additional burden is due to new taxation laws in the GST, which has come into force in the past one year and has not been taken care of in the new Budget," the Army informed the committee.

The Army told the panel that the capital allocation did not even cater to the pay-

In the tax net

Army: Additional burden of ₹5,000 crore
IAF: In 2016-17, paid a custom duty of ₹943.62 crore which went up to ₹1,614.28 crore in 2017-18. The estimated outgo for 2018-19 is ₹1,726.98 crore

No separate allocation has been made in the defence budget to cater to the tax burden or the amount has not been refunded

ments for committed liabilities, or deals already contracted for.

The Indian Air Force, which is heavily dependent on imports, is facing a similar situation.

The IAF informed the committee that in 2016-17, it paid a custom duty of

₹943.62 crore, which went up to ₹1,614.28 crore in 2017-18.

"This amount was not even reimbursed to the Air Force. The estimated outgo for 2018-19 is ₹1,726.98 crore," the committee was informed.

The funds allocated for

committed liabilities is ₹33,100 crore against a projection of ₹72,482 crore.

The Navy too is affected by the new tax regime, though to a less extent than the Army and the IAF.

The Navy apprised the committee that in the revenue part, the tax burden due to the GST will go up from ₹427.28 crore last year to ₹800 crore this year.

"The committee, therefore, desire that reasonability be shown in the budget for the Army, by way of providing for the additional burden to the extent of ₹5,000 crore due to the changes in the taxation laws," the panel said in its observations in the report tabled in the Parliament last week.

Judge-appointee Indu Malhotra resumes practice

Has not withdrawn her consent for SC judgeship

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Senior advocate Indu Malhotra, the first woman lawyer to be recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for an apex court judgeship, has decided to resume her legal practice.

It has been over two months since the Collegium led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra unanimously recommended her name along with Uttarakhand Chief Justice K.M. Joseph for appointment as Supreme Court judges.

Both files have been pending with the government ever since.

A highly placed source in the Supreme Court said Ms. Malhotra has not withdrawn her consent for Supreme Court judgeship but decided to resume her practice as an advocate till the government takes a decision in her case.



Indu Malhotra

She was spotted arguing a case before a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Misra on Monday.

Normally, a government decision on the appointment of a Supreme Court judge takes a maximum of two weeks, but the government's delay in her and Justice Joseph's cases has prolonged to over two months.

The Collegium had recommended their names to the government for appointment on January 10, 2018.

The decision of the Colle-

gium to recommend Ms. Malhotra was a rare recognition of her professional talent. If appointed, Ms. Malhotra would be only the seventh woman judge in the Supreme Court's 68-year-old history.

Justice Banumathi is presently the sole woman in the Supreme Court judiciary.

Gender imbalance
Ms. Malhotra has the Supreme Court Collegium's answer to criticism for not bringing more women judges into its fold, even as more and more gender-sensitive and women-centric cases reach the Supreme Court for adjudication.

There have been reports that the government has been reluctant to appoint Justice Joseph, who quashed the declaration of President's rule in Uttarakhand in 2016.

Gujarat Congress chief quits

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Congress president Bharatsinh Solanki has resigned from his post.

Sources in the party said that Mr. Solanki met the Congress president Rahul Gandhi and submitted his resignation. He is now leaving for the U.S. for two weeks.

However, Mr. Solanki told presspersons at the Ahmedabad airport that the party high command would take a final call on the matter. "I had offered to step down immediately after the 2017 Assembly polls. Now it is for the party high command to take a call," he said. According to insiders, he was miffed with the party leadership for not giving him a Rajya Sabha berth. Recently, the party nominated former Union Minister Naran Rathwa and party spokesperson Ameer Yagnik to the Rajya Sabha from the State.

BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
No. MM/10-2A/2017-18/Bidding of Vehicles
Notice Inviting Tender
Digitally sealed e-tenders invited by CGMT, BSNL, from the prospective bidders for the following tenders:
S.No. Item Cost of the Tender in ₹ Date of tender opening Time
1 Hiring of Vehicles in Circle Office, Bangalore 1,24,51,580/- 12.04.2018 1130 Hrs
For further detailed information, kindly visit our website www.karnataka.bsnl.co.in and follow 'Link for Tenders' by BSNL.
Tel. No. 080 25504246 FAX No. 080 25562627 Sd/- DGIM (NM)

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION & TENDER
ABRIDGED NIT (3rd time)
The Director General [S&D], KMC invites tender online for the following work:
NIT No. KMC/S&D/SCD(C)/2017-2018/38R5
Name of the work and place of delivery: Procurement of 3 nos. Open Nullah De-silting machine. Place of Delivery : Sewer Cleansing garages. Estimated Amount : Not Applicable. Time and last date of closing/opening of tender : 03.04.2018 at 12.00 Noon/05.04.2018 at 12.00 Noon (Technical Bid). The bid forms and other details will be available on and from 21.03.2018 (9.00 AM) from the website https://etender.wb.nic.in. 1429/17-18

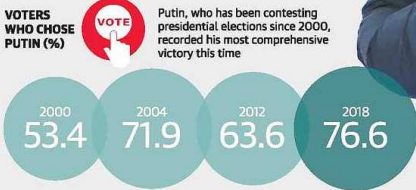
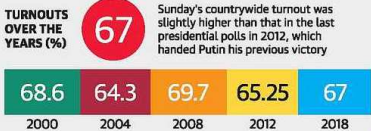
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING RFP
No.: 967/357Yata-NH Circle/18 Dated:- 17/03/2018
Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of Authority's Engineer for supervision of Rehabilitation and Up-gradation of (Ram Nagar to Siswa Babu) (Km. 484+000 to Km. 505+120) and (Kaptanganj to Padrauna) (Km.537+000 to Km. 564+750) of NH-730 to two lane with paved Shoulders under EPC mode in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) for the works entrusted to NH wing of the State PWD, Uttar Pradesh (the 'Employer') invites proposals from eligible consultants up to the dead line for submission of bids for engaging Authority's Engineer (AE) on the basis of International Competitive Bidding for the following contract package in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

SL No.	Consultancy Package	NH No.	State	Project Length (Km) / Project Cost (Cr.)	Assignment period (months)
1	Rehabilitation and Up-gradation of NH-730 from Km. 484.000 to Km. 505.120 (Ramnagar to Siswa Babu) to two lane with paved Shoulders (Rural Area) & Two Lane Paved Shoulders with Service Road (Urban Area) under EPC mode in the state of Uttar Pradesh.	730	Uttar Pradesh	(Km. 484+000 to Km. 505+120) 21.12/ 153.66	60
2	Rehabilitation and Up-gradation of NH-730 from Km. 537.000 to Km. 564.750 (Kaptanganj to Padrauna) to two lane with paved Shoulders (Rural Area) & Four lane Divided Carriageway with Service Road (Urban Area) under EPC mode in the state of Uttar Pradesh.	730	Uttar Pradesh	(Km. 537+000 to Km. 564+750) 27.75/ 216.98	66

The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of MoRTH & H <http://www.morth.nic.in> or e-procurement portal of MoRTH & H <https://eprocure.gov.in> from 21.03.2018 to 20.04.2018 up to 17:00 hrs. IST. Bid must be submitted online only at <https://eprocure.gov.in> on or before 21.04.2018 (up to 17:00 hours IST). Bids received online shall be opened on 24.04.2018 (at 12:00 hours IST).
Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, document fee, Power of Attorney and joint bidding agreement shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 23.04.2018 (up to 15:00 hours IST). Please note that the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways or Employer reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Superintending Engineer, NH Circle, Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department, Nirman Bhawan, 96-Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Lucknow – 226 001. E-mail: senhpwdko@gmail.com

Putin 4.0

Following his sweeping victory in the presidential polls, Vladimir Putin has secured a fourth presidential term. The results come at a time when Russia stands increasingly isolated internationally. This began with Moscow's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and continued as conflicts in Ukraine and Syria progressed.



I see in this [result] the confidence and hope of our people



PRIMARY OPPONENT

The Communist Party, the primary opposition since 1991, has seen its support dwindle over the years.

Year	Winner	Runner-up	% of votes*
1991	Boris Yeltsin	Nikolai Ryzhkov	17.2%
1996	Boris Yeltsin	Gennady Zyuganov	40.7%
2000	Vladimir Putin	Gennady Zyuganov	29.5%
2004	Vladimir Putin	Nikolay Kharkitonov	13.8%
2008	Dmitry Medvedev	Gennady Zyuganov	18%
2012	Vladimir Putin	Gennady Zyuganov	17.2%
2018	Vladimir Putin	Pavel Grudinin	13.3%

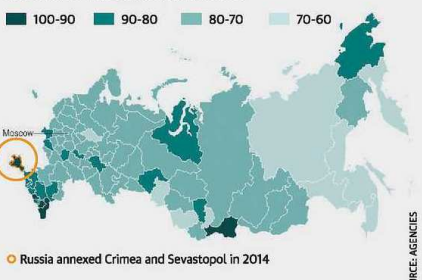
* % of votes received by the runner-up

OTHER KEY TAKEAWAYS

About 10 million more Russians voted for Putin this year than they did in 2012.

SHARE OF PUTIN VOTES IN DIFFERENT REGIONS

Data based on more than 90% of the ballots



- Putin took more than 70% of votes in Moscow, the bastion of the opposition. He had won just 47% in 2012.
- Turnout was the highest in the North Caucasus - at more than 90% - and lowest in Chechnya, at 35%.
- Crimea overwhelmingly voted for Putin - more than 92% voted in his favour.
- Opposition movement led by Alexei Navalny and election monitor Golos claimed there had been ballot stuffing and repeat voting. Navalny sent more than 33,000 observers to check discrepancies.

- TURNOUT PERKS**
 - Incentives were offered to voters to boost turnout - these included giveaways, food festivals and children's programmes.
 - State employees reported pressure from above to vote.
- INDEFINITE TERM?**
 - Putin is already Russia's longest-serving leader since Joseph Stalin. However, he has dismissed the idea of staying on in power for life.

Vladimir Putin wins six more years as Russia's President

After his biggest election victory with 76.6% of the votes, Putin tells the West that he doesn't want an arms race.

REUTERS MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin struck a softer tone towards the West on Monday after winning his biggest ever election victory, saying he had no desire for an arms race and would do everything he could to resolve differences with other countries.

Mr. Putin's victory, which comes at a time when his relations with the West are on a hostile trajectory, will extend his political dominance of Russia by six years to 2024. That will make him the longest-serving ruler since Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin and has raised Western fears of spiralling confrontation.



United Russia: Russians waving national flags while waiting for results in Manezhnaya square, Moscow, on Sunday. AFP

his daughter. As a result, relations with the West have hit a post-Cold-War low.

Free and fair? With more than 56 million votes, it was Mr. Putin's biggest ever win and the largest by any post-Soviet Russian leader.

But the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a rights watchdog, said restrictions on fundamental freedoms, as well as on candidate registration, had restricted the scope for political engagement and cramped competition.

ment and cramped competition.

"Choice without real competition, as we have seen here, is not real choice," the OSCE said in a statement. The CEC said earlier on Monday it had not registered any serious complaints of violations.

Backed by state TV and the ruling party, and credited with an approval rating of around 80%, Mr. Putin faced no credible threat from a field of seven challengers. His nearest rival, Communist Party candidate Pavel Grudinin, won 11.8% of votes while nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy got 5.6%.

Chinese President Xi Jinping was among the first to offer his congratulations to Mr. Putin, but Heiko Maas, Germany's new Foreign Minister, questioned whether

cott the election, urged his supporters not to lose heart and said his campaign had succeeded in lowering the turnout, accusing authorities of being forced to falsify the numbers.

Near-final figures put turnout at 67.7%, just shy of the 70% the Kremlin was reported to have been aiming for before the vote. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov played down suggestions that tensions with the West had boosted turnout, saying the result showed that Russians were united behind Mr. Putin's plans to develop the country.

Chinese President Xi Jinping was among the first to offer his congratulations to Mr. Putin, but Heiko Maas, Germany's new Foreign Minister, questioned whether

there had been fair political competition.

French President Emmanuel Macron was one of the few Western leaders to speak by telephone to Mr. Putin on Monday, wishing Russia and its people success in modernising the country.

Exit strategy
Asked after his re-election if he would run for yet another term in the future, Mr. Putin laughed off the idea. "Let's count. What, do you think I will sit (in power) until I'm 100 years old?" he said, calling the question "funny".
Although Mr. Putin has six years to consider a possible successor, uncertainty about his future is a potential source of instability in a fractious ruling elite that only he can keep in check.

ELSEWHERE



'Abaya not compulsory for Saudi women'
Riyadh: Women in Saudi Arabia need not wear headcover or the black abaya - the loose-fitting, full-length robe - as long as their attire is "decent and respectful", Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said. "The decision is entirely left for a woman to decide what type of decent and respectful attire she chooses to wear," he said. REUTERS

N. Korea in talks with U.S. to release detainees
SEOUL: North Korea is in talks with the U.S. and Sweden to release three jailed Americans, reports said. Seoul-based MBC TV station reported on Sunday that Pyongyang and Washington had "practically reached" a final agreement on the release of U.S. citizens Kim Hae-sung, Kim Sang-duk and Kim Dong-chul. AFP

Turkey vows to expand Syria operations
ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday vowed to expand the Syria campaign to other Kurdish areas up to the Iraqi border, a day after pro-Ankara forces ousted Kurdish militia from Afrin. "Now we will continue this process until we entirely eliminate this corridor..." he said, referring to the areas controlled by the People's Protection Units. AFP

2 injured in mysterious Texas bombing
CHICAGO: Police and bomb experts were hard at work on Monday investigating a fourth mysterious bombing this month in the Texas State capital of Austin, a blast that injured two young men. The three previous bombings have claimed the lives of two people, both African Americans and injured four others. AFP

Foreign Minister Wang Yi made State Councilor

ATUL ANEJA BEIJING

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has been elevated to the post of State Councilor, signalling a revamp of China's foreign policy establishment likely to influence New Delhi-Beijing ties.

Mr. Wang will continue to retain the post of Foreign Minister. The State Councilor, attached to the State Council, China's cabinet, is of a higher rank. Mr. Wang's new assignment was cleared by lawmakers who had assembled for an annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's Parliament.

Prior to Mr. Wang, Yang Jiechi held the post of State Councilor. He was also the senior most official in the Leading Group on Foreign Affairs - a powerful body headed by President Xi Jinping.

Boundary talks
In his capacity as State Councilor, Mr. Wang is likely to serve as China's Special Representative



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi. AFP

(SR) on boundary talks with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. However, the Chinese Foreign Ministry responded cautiously when asked on Monday about whether Mr. Wang's role as SR has been affirmed. "As I have said, China attached great importance to this (SR) mechanism and as (to) who will be the Special Representative, we will wait and see," said spokesperson Hua Chunying.

demonstrating a "strategic vision" which had helped defuse last year's Doklam crisis, and acknowledged that ties between the two countries were poised for a rapid transition.

Leadership overhaul
Analysts say that Mr. Wang's elevation is part of an overhaul that would allow China to play a more influential overseas role in tune with Mr. Xi's vision for China, which is embarking on a "new era". "China's foreign policy establishment is going through tremendous change and expansion, which correlates with the rapid expansion of China's economic interests and influence in the world," said Victor Gao, vice president, Center for China and Globalisation, in a conversation with The Hindu.

The South China Morning Post had earlier reported that the powerful international department of the Communist Party and the party's Leading Group on Foreign Affairs were expected to merge.

Liu He is star in leadership revamp

ATUL ANEJA BEIJING

From the comfort of working behind the scenes, China's new Vice-Prime Minister Liu He, a close confidant of President Xi Jinping, has been brought into the limelight to defend an economy that is facing a mounting debt and a possible trade war with the U.S.

Mr. Liu will be at the helm to bring China's economy back on track and work out plans to reduce the existing debt. He was endorsed on Monday by the National People's Congress (NPC).

The NPC also backed the appointment of Yi Gang as the head of China's Central Bank. Mr. Yi will replace Zhou Xiaochuan. Among other appointments endorsed by the NPC was that of Han Zheng, a member of the Communist Party Politburo who also joined the ranks as Vice-Premier. It is likely that he will work closely with Mr. Liu to address the debt accumulated by the several state companies.

Bangladesh Supreme Court stays Khaleda Zia's bail order till May 8

HAROON HABIB DHAKA

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Khaleda Zia will have to be in jail for a longer time as the Supreme Court stayed until May 8 a High Court order that granted her bail in a corruption case in which she was sentenced to five years in prison.

The four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order on Monday, after hearing two petitions filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the government, challenging the

bail. The order means the bail will remain suspended until May 8, and Ms. Zia cannot get released from jail till that date.

Appeal by government
The Appellate Division also asked the state, the ACC and the defence to submit the concise statements on their respective appeals within two weeks and set May 8 for a hearing on the matter.

After passing the order, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain said all the four judges of the Apex Court arrived at the decision unanimously. The High Court on March 12 granted

ed a four-month bail to Ms. Zia. Meanwhile, speculation is ripe over whether Ms. Zia can participate in the parliamentary election scheduled for December this year.

According to Bangladesh's Attorney General, it will depend on the final Supreme Court judgment.

Condemning Monday's judgment denying bail to Ms. Zia, BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir announced that the party would stage a nationwide agitation on Tuesday demanding an unconditional release of their leader.

Sirisena urged to 'rise as a statesman'

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

Reminding President Maithripala Sirisena of the "unstinted support" that Tamils extended to him in 2015, senior Tamil politician and Leader of Opposition R. Sampanthan on Monday urged him to "rise as a statesman" and resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic problem.

"We want a statesman to rise in this country who can say, 'I resolved the country's national question' and we think you can do it and it is our expectation that it will be done," he said, speaking at an event in Jaffna, where he shared the stage with Mr. Sirisena.

The veteran Tamil leader's remarks came at a time when Mr. Sirisena's national unity government is dealing with a major blow in the island-wide local government elections held in early February.

Severe criticism
The Colombo government also faces severe criticism from the Tamils for its delayed efforts in fulfilling promises Mr. Sirisena made in 2015, in regard to war-time accountability and reconciliation. Political observers have said that the government, fragile and significantly weakened after the polls, is unlikely to address concerns of the Tamils.



Leader of Opposition R. Sampanthan. AFP

minority vote in 2015, which propelled Mr. Sirisena's alliance to victory. Mr. Sampanthan said the Tamil people supported him to achieve the objective of a political solution. "We know that you want to do it. I know that you want to do it. But your efforts are being stymied," he said, adding that Mr. Sirisena

must overcome the impediments and be recognised world over as a statesman who resolved the Tamil question.

Mr. Sirisena, in his address that followed, said it was because he remembers and values the support extended by the Tamils that he felt indebted to the community.

Pointing to political challenges that have emerged recently, he urged the people to be mindful of politicians serving their own interests and others committed to the people. "I have not betrayed the trust people have in me, I have not changed any of my principles, and I will not change them," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Notice Inviting Bid

Date: 19-03-2018

Bid/Package no. 434/107/com B-18/18

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through the Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department is engaged in the development of National Highways and as part of this endeavor, it has been decided to undertake Rehabilitation and Up-gradation of Allahabad Bypass Road Junction to Allahabad City section of NH-96 from existing km 135/230 to km 153/000 [Design Ch. 135.500 to Ch. 153.330] (excluding existing Ch. 148.600 to Ch. 149.400) to Four Lane with paved Shoulders under EPC mode in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

2. The Superintending Engineer, 18th Circle (NH), PWD, Allahabad now invites bids from eligible contractors for the following project:

State	NH No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Completion Period	Maintenance Period
Uttar Pradesh	96	Rehabilitation and Up-gradation of Allahabad Bypass Road Junction to Allahabad City section of NH-96 from existing km 135/230 to km 153/000 [Design Ch. 135.500 to Ch. 153.330] (excluding existing Ch. 148.600 to Ch. 149.400) to Four Lane with paved Shoulders under EPC mode in the state of Uttar Pradesh.	Rs. 211.43 Cr.	18 Months	4 Years

3. The complete Bid Document can be viewed/downloaded from the official portal of MoRTH <http://www.morth.nic.in> or e-procurement portal of MoRTH <http://eprocure.gov.in> from 19.03.2018 to 18.04.2018 up to 1700 Hrs IST. Bid must be submitted online only at <http://eprocure.gov.in> on or before 19.04.2018 up to 1500 Hrs IST. Bids received online shall be opened on 20.04.2018 at 1500 Hrs.

4. Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, document fee, Power of Attorney and joint bidding agreement shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 19.04.2018 up to 1100 Hrs IST. Please note that the Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the Bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

5. Corrigendum/addendum shall only be hoisted on e-procurement portal only.

The Superintending Engineer,
18th Circle (NH),
Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department,
26-Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
Allahabad - 211 002
E-mail: nhcircle18@rediffmail.com

MARKET WATCH		
	19-03-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	32,923	-0.76
US Dollar	65.17	-0.35
Gold	31,180	-0.35
Brent oil	65.66	0.93

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	364.30	-4.20
Asian Paints	231.15	-3.60
Asian Paints	1302.55	-20.20
Aurobindo Pharma	572.50	-0.35
Axis Bank	519.45	-3.15
Bajaj Auto	2849.45	-61.00
Bajaj Finance	1631.85	-56.05
Bharti Airtel	309.65	-17.30
Bosch	17515.05	-406.65
BPCL	430.75	-16.80
Cipla	559.75	0.35
Coal India	272.30	-5.90
Dr Reddys Lab	2119.85	-22.30
Eicher Motors	27403.05	-676.10
GAIL (India)	442.05	1.05
HCL Tech	926.50	-41.10
HDFC	1774.50	-16.90
HDFC Bank	1847.25	-5.75
Hero MotoCorp	3515.30	-30.80
Hindustan	214.55	-7.15
HPCL	352.35	-12.40
Hind Unilever	1309.40	10.25
Indiabulls NPL	1187.85	-19.60
KCI Bank	294.55	-3.55
IndusInd Bank	1718.80	-5.90
Kotak Infrate	325.35	-9.10
114675	1146.75	-25.15
Indian Oil Corp	177.50	-6.85
ITC	259.15	-1.35
Kotak Bank	1049.00	-11.75
L&T	1279.55	10.25
Lupin	766.60	4.75
M&M	742.70	1.55
Mauri Suzuki	8773.50	96.95
NTPC	167.00	2.15
ONGC	176.85	-0.30
PowerGrid Corp	194.20	1.95
Reliance Ind	895.50	-4.55
Sarens Bank	247.55	-4.35
Sun Pharma	497.65	-5.40
Tata Motors	335.70	-4.05
Tata Steel	574.55	-25.25
TCS	2831.00	5.30
Tech Mahindra	369.50	-24.80
UltraTech Cement	3972.40	-53.90
UPL	701.85	-17.85
Vedanta	307.20	-1.70
Wipro	288.65	-7.10
YES Bank	304.80	-18.10
Zee Entertainment	566.45	-3.50

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 19		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	64.97	65.29
Euro	79.81	80.21
JP Yen	91.24	91.70
Japanese Yen (100)	61.17	61.47
Chinese Yuan	10.26	10.31
Swiss Franc	68.13	68.47
Singapore Dollar	49.27	49.51
Canadian Dollar	49.70	49.95
Malaysian Ringgit	16.58	16.68

BULLION RATES		
March 19 rates in rupees per previous rates in parentheses		
Gold Silver (1g)	41.1	(285)
22 carat (1g)	2886	(2855)

+ Bandhan IPO subscribed 14.62 times

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
The initial public offer (IPO) of Bandhan Bank, which closed on Monday, was subscribed 14.62 times till 7 p.m. While the institutional portion was subscribed 38.67 times, the part reserved for high net worth individuals was subscribed 13.89 times.
The retail portion, however, was subscribed 1.18 times. Bids for a total of 122.07 crore shares were received as against 8.35 crore shares on offer in the price band of ₹370-₹375. At the top end of the band, the lender could raise ₹4,400 crore. More than 10 lakh applications were received from investors in the public issue. The issue comprises a fresh issue of 9.77 crore equity shares and offer for sale of 2.16 crore equity shares, including an anchor portion of 3.58 crore equity shares.

Is govt. turning a deaf ear to banks bureau?

Waiting since July 2017 for time to discuss bank reforms with Jaitley, says BBB

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
Is the government ignoring the suggestions of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) on reforms in public sector banks?
The answer is yes if one were to go by the 'Compendium of Recommendations' put up on its website on Monday, where it said the bureau was merely functioning as 'an appointment board'. Though the bureau, headed by Vinod Rai, had sought a meeting with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to chalk out the action plan for reforms in PSBs in July 2017, the Minister had not given it time yet, it said.
Having begun functioning from April 1, 2016, BBB was seen as a step towards govern-

t.me/velarch_official

UltraTech offers to buy Binani Cement for ₹7,266 crore

Binani Industries seeks to terminate cement arm's insolvency process at NCLT

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

Binani Cements promoter Binani Industries Limited (BIL), has decided to seek termination of its insolvency proceedings at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), after UltraTech Cement agreed to buy out the promoters' stake in Binani Cement for ₹7,266 crore.

This development comes after the Committee of Creditors approved Dalmia Bharat's ₹6,700-crore bid to buy Binani Cement last week. Sameer A. Kaji, advisor to Binani Industries, said, "The idea of IBC is to maximise value for all stakeholders. The NCLT has powers to keep the corporate debtor out of the



Part of process: The owner has the right to sell a mortgaged asset and repay the loan, says UltraTech's Atul Daga. • REUTERS

IBC process, if all liabilities are paid. UltraTech has given us letter of comfort of ₹7,266 crore to buy Binani Cement, based upon which we are seeking termination of insolvency proceedings at NCLT."

Asked if the proposal could go through with the matter pending with the NCLT, Atul Daga, ED & CFO, UltraTech Cements, said, "If you have a house that's mortgaged with a bank, you are still the own-

er and can sell it and repay the loan."

'Binani sought support'
In a statement, BIL said, "To terminate the IBC proceedings, Binani Cement will be required to pay off lenders' debts and other liabilities as admitted in the IBC proceedings."

"To add credibility to its application, BIL had approached UltraTech Cement Ltd. to support ... with the funds required to pay off the amount determined as due."

It added "upon the termination of the insolvency proceedings of Binani Cement, the company had agreed to... sell its 98.43% shareholding... to UltraTech."

IRDAI may appeal against tribunal's order

Mulls moving SC against SAT order that cited IRDA member's decision as 'aiding corruption'

N. RAVI KUMAR
HYDERABAD

IRDAI, currently without a chairman, is facing a crisis after the Securities Appellate Tribunal described an order passed by a member of the regulator as one that "virtually amounts to aiding and abetting corruption."

The legal department of the Insurance and Regulatory and Development Authority is examining options to appeal against the Tribunal's order in the Supreme Court and a decision is likely by the weekend, sources familiar with the matter said.

'Chairman's post vacant'
IRDAI has remained without a Chairman since February 21, when T.S. Vijayan demitted office on completing five years. Though candidates,

many from the insurance sector, were interviewed, no announcement has yet been made.

On Friday, while disposing an appeal filed by Atkins Special Risks, the SAT bench comprising presiding officer Justice J.P. Devadhar and member Dr. C.K.G. Nair questioned an order passed by IRDAI Member (Non-Life) P.J. Joseph and directed the regulator to conduct a probe by a "competent officer" and pass a fresh order.

"We fail to understand as to how Member (Non-Life) could make such false statement... the impugned order... virtually amounts to aiding and abetting corruption in the insurance business..." the Bench said. In the complaint filed with IRDAI in August 2015, Atkins



• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

said between 2002 and 2012 it had provided international reinsurance cover to Jagson International on Jagson International on jagson brokerage or commission basis. Atkins accused Jagson International chairman Jagdish Gupta of demanding a cut, from 2010, in the commission it earned. In 2012, the re-insurance business of Jagson went to Marsh India In-

sureance Brokers. Detailing the sequence leading to the complaint, the SAT order said Atkins had engaged a global investigating firm as it suspected illegal means were used to divert the business, and that the agency, in its report, said kickbacks were given to Mr. Gupta.

"As no action was taken," on its complaint filed with IRDAI, Atkins filed a writ petition in the High Court in Hyderabad, which disposed the petition in September 2017 with a direction to IRDAI to consider the complaint filed by the firm in accordance with law.

Mr. Joseph heard the appeal on November 16, 2017 and passed an order on January 9, disposing of the complaint by "simply stating that the appellant has not

DoT raises cap on spectrum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecom on Monday amended licence norms of service providers to increase the number of instalments for spectrum payments and radiowaves frequency holding limit to provide relief to the sector reeling under a deep financial stress.

"The licensee may opt one time for higher number of instalments including in the current financial year 2017-18 (maximum 16 instalments) for deferred payment liabilities as per Notice Inviting Application (NIA) for auctions conducted for award of spectrum in the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016," the telecom department said in a note on the licence amendment.

It added "upon the termination of the insolvency proceedings of Binani Cement, the company had agreed to... sell its 98.43% shareholding... to UltraTech."

submitted any documentary proof, material information or evidence in support of its contention." Following this, Atkins filed an appeal at SAT.

'Abuse of process of law'
According to SAT, the IRDAI order was a "gross abuse of the process of law and dereliction of duty." The Tribunal, however, said: "We make it clear that we have not expressed any opinion on the merits of the complaint..."

In a statement on Monday, a Marsh India spokesperson said: "We strongly deny any wrongdoing and find the complaint, filed by the competing broker who lost the business to Marsh India, as baseless and without merit."

(With Ashish Rukhaya and Manojit Saha from Mumbai)



What comes first: Once the TDSAT order is vacated, we will honour the guarantees, says Axis Bank. • REUTERS

DoT asks telcos not to accept Axis Bank's guarantees

'Guarantees for Aircel not honoured'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has instructed all telecom companies and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) not to accept any new bank guarantees from Axis Bank.

In a letter dated March 16, a copy of which is available with *The Hindu*, the DoT said that Axis Bank was in "serious breach of trust and contract" with the Government of India (GOI).

"Axis Bank has failed to invoke the Bank Guarantee issued by them on behalf of Aircel Group of Companies. This action by Axis Bank is a serious breach of trust and contract with the Government of India," DoT said in the letter.

"In view of this, you are hereby directed not to accept any new bank guarantee from Axis Bank, including renewals. This [is issued] with the approval of competent authority."

TDSAT order
The amount of bank guarantee given by Axis Bank on behalf of Aircel could not be

independently verified. To an emailed query, an Axis Bank spokesperson said, "The bank guarantees have been issued by us on behalf of Bharti Airtel. Payment of the said guarantees, at present, will be in violation of the orders of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)."

"Once the order is vacated, the Bank will be pleased to honour the said guarantees, as per the underlying terms. This matter has been communicated to the Dept. of Telecom (DoT)."

'Bankruptcy filing'
Aircel had filed for bankruptcy with the Mumbai bench of NCLT citing high unsustainable debt, price wars and legal and regulatory challenges. The company has ₹15,000 crore of dues to lenders and ₹35,000 crore in dues to operational creditors.

Aircel has spectrum in the 900MHz, 1800MHz and 2100MHz bands, respectively. According to current rules, Aircel is not entitled to any refund if it surrenders its spectrum to DoT.

FRONTLINE
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984

NORTH BY NORTH-EAST

POLITICAL CHURNING

The BJP's triumphalism over its recent election victories in the north-eastern region is only a facade to mask its falling stock in northern India.

A battle won

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has won a significant victory in the north-eastern region, but its triumphalism is only a facade to mask its falling stock in northern India.

Now on stands, Issue Date: March 30th, 2018
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कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड

(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)

COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

REF: INFRA/SRRF79/2017
Dated: 19 March 2018

कोचीन पोर्ट परिसर में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पोत मरम्मत सुविधा (आइएसएफ) परियोजना के निष्पाप चरण के दौरान पर्यावरणीय निगरानी

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DURING THE CONSTRUCTION STAGE OF INTERNATIONAL SHIP REPAIR FACILITY (ISRF) PROJECT AT COCHIN PORT PREMISES

1. कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड (शिपयार्ड) कोचीन पोर्ट परिसर में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पोत मरम्मत सुविधा परियोजना के निर्माण चरण के दौरान पर्यावरणीय निगरानी करने कोष्ठित हो बोली प्रारंभ में यथुर्वर्तन प्रस्तावित आगति जाणा है।
2. Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) invites sealed proposal in two bid formats for carrying out "Environmental monitoring during the construction stage of ISRF project at Cochin Port premises".
3. निष्पाप के निर्माण और सार मरम्मत केवेनड www.cochinshipyard.com/ पर "Interest in the project" के अंतर्गत सूचित कर सारना है।
4. मरम्मत शर पर मरम्मत शिपवर्क कर्म से आगुत है कि ये अतिरिक्त मरम्मत के शर्य उतार है / शुद्धिकरण, जहाज को, तो उसे कर्म केवेनड सार है। उतवर्ण किय जाणा। कर्म से आगुत है कि मरुतु को अतिरिक्त मरुतु केवेनड को निर्माण करे।

Details and conditions of tender can be accessed from our website: www.cochinshipyard.com/tenders.html or <http://www.eprocure.gov.in>. Interested parties are requested to use the website to respond with the required documents. Correspondence, if any will be available only in website. Firms are requested to monitor the website till the last date of submission.

3. प्रस्ताव शर्य होत को आगति निष्पाप दिनांक 03 अगुत 2018 को 1500 तक है।

Last date of receipt of offer is upto 1500 hours on 03 April 2018. /

सहायक प्रबंधक (होता परियोजनाएं) / General Manager (Infra Projects)

IN BRIEF



Shi stuns Lin, Ying's reign continues
BIRMINGHAM
Chinese superstar Lin Dan was denied a seventh All-England Open title as his young compatriot Shi Yng clinched a shock victory in Sunday's final. Seventh-seeded Shi profited from Lin's lacklustre play to win 21-19, 16-21, 21-9. Earlier, Tai Tzu Ying, the World No. 1 from Chinese Taipei, became the first women's player in more than a decade to defend her title. She beat Akane Yamaguchi 22-20, 21-13.

Decision on Rabada's appeal by Wednesday
CAPE TOWN
Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada will learn the result of his appeal against a ban for the remaining two Tests against Australia within 48 hours following a hearing on Monday, Cricket South Africa said. The hearing, via teleconference with judicial commissioner Michael Heron of New Zealand, lasted more than five hours. South African captain Faf du Plessis attended the early part of the meeting before leaving to join the team but team manager Mohammed Moosaie and advocate Dali Mpofu remained with Rabada. **AFP**



Rubel Hossain seeks forgiveness from fans
DHAKA
Crestfallen Bangladesh pacer Rubel Hossain, who leaked 22 runs in the 19th over to help India claw back chasing 167 and win the final of the Nidahas Trophy, wants to be forgiven by fans. "I am feeling terrible. I never thought I would be the reason for Bangladesh's defeat. We were so close to winning but because of me, we lost. I want to apologise to the fans and ask for forgiveness," Rubel was quoted as saying by Bangladesh newspaper Prothom Alo. **IANIS**

McClennaghan for injured Behrendorff
MUMBAI
New Zealand left-arm seamer Mitchell McClennaghan has replaced the injured Australian left-arm seamer Jason Behrendorff in the Mumbai Indians squad for this season's IPL. McClennaghan, who will receive T20 cover, has played 40 matches for MI and taken 54 wickets (18 in 2015, 17 in 2016 and 19 in 2017) at 24.61.

Advani begins with a facile win
YANGON
Pankaj Advani made a smooth start to his title defence at the 17th Asian billiards championship, outclassing Singapore's Yeo Teck Shin 4-0 on Monday. Rupesh Shah also won 4-0 against Indonesia's Martando Sihombing.
Other results: Women: Vidya Pillai bt Thandar Maung 2-1; Aamee Kamani bt Ngwe Hlaing 2-0; Keerthi Bhandal bt Varsha Sanjeev 2-1.
Under-21: Sparsh Phewani bt Thaw Zain Htet 4-3.



Fair point: Though Jaffer made the most of a lifeless pitch, he feels that it defies the purpose of the game. **• VIVEK BENDRE**

t.me/velarch_official

A huge stride forward for Karthik the finisher

'I have always thought about hitting the final delivery for a six and taking India past the line'

NIDAHAS TROPHY

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Dinesh Karthik first watched a video of Javed Miandad's last ball six off Chetan Sharma when he was 10 years old.

It remained a school-boy dream in him. "I always thought about hitting the final delivery for a six and taking India past the line," he said.

Actually when Miandad struck that sensational tournament-winning blow in that wicket-wrenching Austral-Asia Cup final at Sharjah in 1986, Karthik was under a year-old.

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Now, he was a battle-scarred senior cricketer in the Indian camp. And the moment — when Bangladesh's Soumya Sarkar ran in — was his shot at long-awaited glory.

Ticking a big box
And when Karthik bludgeoned Sarkar for the maximum with India needing five runs off the last delivery in the Nidahas Trophy final on Sunday, he had ticked a mas-

Trending on Twitter

- No game is over till the fat lady sings. DK, you beauty!
RAVI SHASTRI
- What a game! What a player! That was a great shot under pressure to finish things off!
SHIRAZ DHAWAN
- Has been around for so long and has gone through the grind. Shows there are no short cuts to success. This is Karthik's moment
MOHAMMAD KAIF
- Knowing him well that he always wanted to do and it came through on the finals night
R. ASHWIN
- What a game of cricket last night, complete team performance! Big up boys!!! Well done DK
VIRAT KOHLI

sive box in his wish list.

Watching that pulse-pounding conclusion in Colombo was India coach Ravi Shastri who was in that Indian team floored by Miandad's knockout blow 32 years ago.

He rushed to the ground in relief and joy after the contest's explosive end.

Savouring the moment
Karthik will savour the moment. He had donned the cloak of a finisher for India and lived out a fantasy during his eight-ball blitz of unbeaten 29.

He has been around for long in an international career that began in 2004. It has been a rocky ride for the wicketkeeper-batsman from Chennai, a journey in which he had displayed tremendous fighting qualities.

The striking aspect about Karthik's last-ball heroics in Colombo was, there was so little predetermination. He stood still and calm when

the final delivery was released.

The full length delivery outside off — not the easiest ball to put away — was despatched with bat-speed and power for a flat six over covers.

The quickfooted Karthik has matured with time, becoming a more-rounded batsman who is hitting a lot straighter, picking his shots and spots with greater judgement and precision.

India's bowling coach Bharat Arun told *The Hindu* on Monday, "Look at the way Karthik was using the crease. He stood outside the crease for the first two balls he faced."

"For the next two balls, he went deep into his crease. Karthik foxed the bowler into bowling the line and length, he wanted."

Rare batsman
Arun said, "Karthik is among those rare batsmen who can play shots all 360 degrees.



Memorable win: The Indian players take a lap of honour after winning the Nidahas Trophy tri-series tournament. **• AFP**

Last-gasp heroes

Dinesh Karthik is the only batsman to win a Twenty20 international when at least five runs were required off the final ball. Two others have done it with four needed

- FOUR REQUIRED**
 - Ryan Flannigan (Scotland) 23 Mar 2012
 - Rizwan Cheema (Canada) 23 Dec 2012
 - Rory Kleinveldt (SA) 23 Dec 2012
- THREE REQUIRED**
 - Chamara Kapugedera (SL) 11 May 2010
 - Ashish Nehra (India) 18 Mar 2018
 - Eoin Morgan (England) 22 Dec 2012
 - Shoupe Dinda (India) 18 Mar 2018
- FIVE REQUIRED**
 - Dinesh Karthik (India) 18 Mar 2018
 - Soumya Sarkar (Bangladesh) 18 Mar 2018

And even under extreme pressure, his perception skills are good. It was a massive occasion for all of us

when he produced that amazing finish."

For Karthik, a stint under Mumbai all-rounder Abhishek

Nayar had tightened the game and strengthened the mind.

His journey is as much

about heart as talent. From now on, he will always be Dinesh 'Nidahas' Karthik.

This Washington is going places

'The idea is to bowl where the batsman is least expecting the delivery'

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

When the heat is on, Washington Sundar keeps his cool. In hectic modern-day shortest-format face-offs, old-fashioned control keeps him going.

This spinner is powerful in PowerPlays. Indeed, one among the breed of bowlers (off-spinners) most vulnerable in the T20 cricket also finished



with the best economy rate, and with most wickets too. Despite his minimal celebrations at successes — a throwback to another era — Washington rocked in the Nidahas Trophy. He was rightly the Man-of-the-Series.

Washington bowled a majority of his overs during PowerPlay and yet finished with a stunning economy rate of 5.70. And he topped the wicket-takers' tally — along with Yuzvendra Chahal — with eight scalps at a telling average of 14.25.

Great feeling
"It's a great feeling actually. I am only 18 and this is my first full tournament. Sri Lanka

and Bangladesh are dangerous opponents. The pressure was on us," said Washington to *The Hindu* here on Monday.

He had landed in Chennai on Monday morning after celebrations that stretched late into Sunday night in Colombo. "It was a memorable triumph," he said.

Although his elegant and free-stroking left-handed batting has not been in view so far, Washington's development as a bowler has been fascinating.

Clarity of thought
India bowling coach Bharat Arun said, "Even under immense pressure, he stays calm. That's why his thought process is so good in the PowerPlay overs. He has clarity of thought even in stressful situations."

Arun, who believed Washington was "very receptive to ideas", observed, "He is an exciting bowler. What stands out is the manner he gets the ball to drift. The batsman thinks he is in line and then the ball drifts. He is also someone who uses the yorker extremely well."

Washington said bowling in the PowerPlays and later towards the 'death' was a lot about thinking ahead of the batsman. "You got to stay one step ahead. Even if he hits me, I tell myself, 'My next delivery will be my best'. The idea is to bowl



Triumph of spirit: It was an unforgettable feeling for Washington Sundar, who was at the other end when Dinesh Karthik hit the winning six. **• AFP**

where the batsman is least expecting the delivery."

Using the crease and varying the pace are among his principal ploys. For a tall man, who extracts bounce, Washington can also get the new ball to skid, employing cross seam.

And Washington was at

the non-striker's end when the blazing Dinesh Karthik settled the issue with a last-ball six. "It was an unforgettable feeling. I was hopeful Karthik would do something special. It happened."

It was celebration time for India. And this Washington is going places.

'Karthik equipped to deliver in any situation'

India skipper Rohit praises his boys

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

Dinesh Karthik is always ready to deliver whatever the situation may be and his experience and repertoire of strokes make him a suitable candidate to provide the final flourish for India in the death overs, skipper Rohit Sharma said.

Karthik produced a last-ball six as India pulled off an incredible win over Bangladesh in the Nidahas Trophy T20 Tri-series final, here on Sunday night.

"He was with us on the previous tour in South Africa and didn't get much game time. To do what he did today will give him a lot of confidence going forward," said Rohit.

"The most important thing he has belief in himself. Whatever situation comes, he's ready — whether he bats up the order or down the order. That's the kind of guy we need in our team."

Rohit revealed Karthik was not happy that he was not batting higher in the order but the Indian skipper defended his decision of sending him at No. 7.

"I told him: 'I want you to bat and finish off the game for us, because whatever skill you have, it will be required in the last three or four overs'. That is the only

I told him: 'I want you to bat and finish off the game for us, because the skill you have will be required in the last three or four overs'

reason he was not batting at No. 6 in the 13th over when I got out. He was upset with that, but he'll be quite happy now how he finished off the game."

Handling pressure well
Rohit was all praise for young all-rounder Washington Sundar.

"Throughout the series Washington's bowling has been magical for us. What he has done with the new ball is quite incredible. Not anyone can just take the pressure of bowling within the PowerPlay."

"Not to forget he also got wickets at the same time. He didn't allow any of the opposition to score runs really in the PowerPlay," Rohit said.

"We identified him as one of the promising talents who can play for the national team for many years. This tournament will give him a lot of confidence."

Rohit said the young team showed character and executed the plans perfectly.

Windies stay on course



Marlon Samuels. **• AFP**

West Indies edged closer to a place in the 2019 World Cup when it defeated Zimbabwe by four wickets in the latest qualifying match on Monday.

Chasing 290 to win, the two-time champion reached its target with six balls to spare. Marlon Samuels smashed 86 (4x6) while Evin Lewis and Shai Hope also contributed half centuries.

The West Indies leads the Super Sixes qualifying table with six points but will still need to avoid defeat against Scotland on Wednesday in its last pool match to be sure of a place in next year's finals.

The results: Zimbabwe 289 in 50 overs (B. Taylor 138; J. Holder four for 35) lost to West Indies 290 for six in 49 overs (M. Samuels 86, S. Hope 76, E. Lewis 64).

Flat pitch compounds Irani Cup crisis

Any strip where the result is decided by the toss is a bad one: Jaffer

AMOL KARHADKAR
NAGPUR

At a time when the BCCI intends to adopt new measures to popularise domestic cricket, the last thing it would have wanted was a flat pitch for the Irani Cup.

With domestic cricket in general and the Irani Cup in particular suffering from an existential crisis, the flat pitch at Jamtha has only compounded the situation.

So lop-sided was the equation that the bowlers — be it pacers or spinners — just did not come into play all over

the five days. Even the home team did not expect such a flat track.

No doubt, Vidarbha was desperate to get the better of the Rest of India whose batting line-up appeared to have been selected based on the Ranji Trophy highest run-getters' list rather than potential and batting positions.

While century-maker Ganesh Satish admitted to the Jamtha pitch being "one of the flattest" he has played on, veteran Wasim Jaffer, whose incredible innings of 286 at the age of 40 was easi-

ly the highlight, was also critical of the 22-yard strip.

When *The Hindu* asked Jaffer after the game if such a pitch was a bad advertisement for the game, he said: "I think so. You would like to see a five-day game go on to the second Innings. Any pitch where the result is decided on the toss is a bad wicket."

"I mean even if we had lost the toss, they would have posted a big score. In general, you need to play on sporting tracks where everybody is in the game at dif-

ferent phases. That's how an ideal pitch should be."

After a two-year break, the BCCI allowed the Ranji champion to stage the Irani Cup. In fact, the board wants to break away from its neutral-venue policy for Ranji knockouts from next season.

However, after the Irani experience, it could well stick to the existing policy for the knockouts.

The timing of the match, too, made it inconsequential, with the cricketing globe already switching to T20 mode.

CHESS

Caruana dumps Aronian, back in lead

SPORTS BUREAU
BERLIN

Continuing with his good form, Fabiano Caruana got the better of Levon Aronian in 37 moves to open a half-point lead over Shakhriyar Mamedyarov after the seventh round of the FIDE Candidates chess tournament here on Sunday.

At the half-way stage of this eight-player double-round robin event, Caruana leads with five points. Mamedyarov is a point ahead

of Vladimir Kramnik, Ding Liren and Alexander Grischuk.

In the other decisive battle, Sergey Karjakin scored over Wesley So.

The results: Seventh round: Levon Aronian (Arm, 2.5) lost to Fabiano Caruana (USA, 5); Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 3) bt Wesley So (USA, 2.5).

Alexander Grischuk (Rus, 3.5) drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 4.5); Vladimir Kramnik (Rus, 3.5) drew with Ding Liren (Chn, 3.5).

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 4.30 a.m. onwards.

IN BRIEF



Bolt to watch CWG 100m as a spectator: Blake

USAIN BOLT will attend next month's Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast to watch the 100m final, Yohan Blake has revealed. "He was at the track in Jamaica before I left. He said, 'When I come to Australia, if you don't win there is going to be problems,'" said Blake.

Aditi finishes creditable 26th, Park takes title

ADITI ASHOK carded six birdies enroute to a week's best card of four-under 68 to finish T-26 with eight-under 280 at the Bank of Hope Founders Cup on the LPGA here on Sunday. The win was worth \$12,697. Korean Inbee Park, with a 269, won by five strokes.

SZ fights back

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

South staged a comeback against West in the BCCI Senior women's inter-zone tournament on Monday. West, in reply to South's first innings score of 203, collapsed from 154 for three to 185 for eight at stumps on the second day. The scores: South 203 in 99.4 overs (S. Asha 63, R.N. Chaudhari four for 17) vs West 185 for eight in 83 overs (Shweta 81, Mugdha V. Joshi 73, Gouher three for 56). East 54 & 87 for four in 55 overs (Paramita Roy 41) v North 194 in 93.5 overs (Priya Punia 73, Mandeeep Kaur 30, Devyani Prasad three for 43).

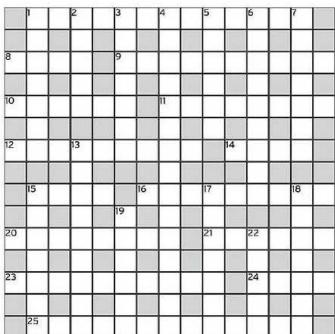
Madhan posts win

CHENNAI: Madhan (Qzone) blanked Vignesh Kumar (SC) 3-0 in the YMCA Madras Open snooker championship, here on Monday. Syed Asim of Snooker Shot made a break of 52, the highest of this championship so far, while thrashing Yadhav of YMCA. The results: Fourth round: Madhan (Qzone) bt Vigneshkumar (SC) 3-0 [56-47; 57-29; 87-18]; Salman (QLounge) bt Waseem (YMCA) 3-0 [61-38; 51-33; 45-15]; Murali (YMCA) bt Shyan (Ind Ngr) 3-1 [45-82; 55-41; 54-44; 58-04].

ENGAGEMENTS

Football: CFA league, senior div., Hindustan Eagles vs Viva Chennai (4 p.m.), Nehru Stadium; 1 div. Madras Postal vs Central Excise (6.15 a.m.), Swaraj vs DVC Basin Bridge (8 a.m.), ICF Stadium. General: Bharathi Women's College sports day, Palani Amarnath, former Ranji cricketer, gives away prizes, College premises, 9.30 a.m.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12269



- 1 Female boatmen are wielding flimsy newspaper as weapons (13)
- 8 Started off job making dye (4)
- 9 A Rolls Royce rolls out of military set-up with coach causing a scene (10)
- 10 Chopper has lice right inside (6)

- 11 Being like a dog maybe? (3-5)
- 12 Korean singer is eating oriental noodles with man that could be Aspartame (9)
- 14 Unites extremely white dames (4)
- 15 Question steamy scientist verbally (4)
- 16 Food from Odisha Tina cooked for dog (9)
- 20 Engineer bribes a class leader to get more marks (8)
- 21 Allocates market instruments (6)
- 23 Starting point for British novel: chapter fifty-one (10)
- 24 Go down, go down, ultimately go out (4)
- 25 Lower very big optical device said to be placed above the rest (3,10)
- 1 Enemies hire one oddball to reveal eccentricities (7)
- 2 A Pole discusses wood trick (5)

del Potro edges Federer in a thriller

The Argentine saves three match points en route to his first Masters 1000 title

BNP PARIBAS OPEN

REUTERS INDIAN WELLS

Juan Martin del Potro saved three match points in a thrilling final at the BNP Paribas Open before handing World No. 1 Roger Federer his first loss of the year and claiming his maiden Masters 1000 title on Sunday.

The Argentine stunned a raucous Indian Wells crowd to continue his winning streak and secure the biggest win in the nine years since his U.S. Open title triumph with a 6-4, 6-7(8), 7-6(2) victory. The win also helped del Potro improve his ranking from eighth to sixth.

Federer, the defending champion, had chalked up 17 consecutive wins in 2018, a run which included his 20th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open, but was unable

to outlast his determined 29-year-old opponent.

del Potro was considered a genuine threat to Federer's dominance of the game when he won at Flushing Meadows in 2009 but has been dogged since by a series of wrist problems which almost ended his career.

Beating Federer has never been easy - del Potro had succeeded just six times in 24 previous attempts - and the nail-biting final lasted almost three hours with both players taking occasional issue with the chair umpire.

Osaka's maiden triumph

JAPAN'S Naomi Osaka claimed her first career title with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Russian Daria Kasatkina. The results (finals): Men: Juan Martin Del Potro bt Roger Federer 6-4, 6-7(8), 7-6(2). Women: Naomi Osaka bt Daria Kasatkina 6-3, 6-2.



What a match, mate! Juan Martin del Potro is congratulated by Roger Federer after the Argentine bounced back from the brink to dethrone the Swiss.

Arun, Harish fashion Grand Slam's win

Ankur Julka, Vishal Vaidhya and Shijit Chandran hit hundreds

SPORTS REPORTER CHENNAI

Off-spinner B. Arun picked up four for 63 and left-arm spinner N.S. Harish four for 62, as Grand Slam bowled out Young Stars for 156 in its second innings, and chased down the 59-run target in the Elite group match on the final day of the fifth round of the TNCA first division cricket league here on Monday.

Arun's match-haul of ten for 153 was instrumental in Grand Slam's outright win.

India Pistons (22 points), Globe Trotters (21), Vijay (20), and Grand Slam (20) have qualified for the semifinals.

In the Plate group, skipper Ankur Julka hit an unbeaten



B. Arun (Grand Slam, match-haul of 10 for 153).



Ankur Julka (CromBest, 160 n.o.).

for five versus UFCC (T. Nagar).

Jolly Rovers, with 23 points, has qualified for the final, while Alwarpet (22) has also made the grade on better run quotient than CromBest (22).

The scores: Elite: At I-Curu Nanak: Vijay 617 for seven decl. in 161 overs (G. Rahul Singh 58, K.B. Arun Karthick 135, Himmat Singh 322) drew with Globe Trotters 187 for eight in 91 overs (C. Hari Nishanth 54). Points: Vijay 3 (20), Trotters 3 (21).

At SSN: Young Stars 210 & 156 in 58.1 overs (B. Arun four for 63, N.S. Harish four for 62) lost to Grand Slam 308 for eight decl. & 62 for one in 11.2 overs. Grand Slam 8 (20), Young Stars 0 (4).

Plate: At IIT-Chemplat: Jolly Rovers 232 & 132 for seven in 78 overs (S. Suresh Kumar 42) drew with T1 Cycles 219 in 93.3 overs (R. Nilesh Subramanian 84, D.T. Chandrasekar eight for 95). Rovers 5 (23), T1 Cycles 2 (15).

At Murugappa: UFCC (T. Nagar) 329 in 102 overs (Kaushik U. Ram 54, R. Rishi Kumar 49, M. Abhinav 61, V. Arun Kumar 40, G.R. Manish 46, M. Siddharth four for 66) drew with Alwarpet 333 for five in 85.2 overs (P. Shijit Chandran 120, K. Vishal Vaidhya 135 n.o.). Alwarpet 5 (22), UFCC 2 (11).

At VB Nest: AG's Office 305 for five decl. drew with CromBest 310 for six in 83.2 overs (R. Ananth 41, Ankur Julka 160 n.o., M. Affan Khader 33, S. Kishan Kumar 42). CromBest 5 (22), AGORC 2 (12).

Queen Of Clubs clinches Thank You All Cup

CHENNAI: Queen Of Clubs (P. Trevor astide) won the Thank You All Cup, the main event of the extra day's races held here on Monday (March 19).

The winner is owned by Mr. M. Pushparaj, Mr. R. Prabu and Mr. V. Sarish Kumar. Karthik trains the winner.

LEADING OWNER: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep. by Mr. A.C. Muthiah (1,63,24,422 stake money). CHAMPION TRAINER: B. Suresh (28 wins). CHAMPION JOCKEY: C. Umesh (54 wins).

LEADING BOOKMAKER: FIRST ENCLOSURE: M/s. Shine Well (10,38,445 field money); SECOND ENCLOSURE: M/s. S.M. Enterprises (22,30,200 field money). 1 VAIGAI PLATE (1,00m), maiden 4-y-o only, rated 20 to 45: COUNTRY'S PACE (Ashad Alam) 1, Intox (Umesh) 2, Icelandic Star (Ayaz Khan) 3 and Spirit of Zion (Jagadeesh) 3. Not run: Orchestra, 2/3/4, snk, and 1-1/4, 1.776s, 88 (w), 15, 8 and 7 (p), SHIP: 23, PP: 153, Q: 31, Tla: 406. Favourite: Country's Pace. Owner M/s. Country Stud Farms LLP. Trainer: Mohan.

2 ERODE PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 25: STAR STUDD (Jagadeesh) 1, Sprinkler (Saddam)



Top of the charts: Leading owner Mr. A.C. Muthiah (representing M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust), second from left, leading trainer Mr. C. Suresh, left, leading jockey C. Umesh, second from right, and leading tipster Masood Khan (representing The Hindu) with the secretary of the Madras Race Club R. Ramakrishnan. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

2, Betty Boop (Deepak Singh) 3 and Tiblisi (Umesh) 4. 5/4, 1-1/2 and hd, Im, 15.72s, 82 (w), 24, 8 and 12 (p), SHIP: 9, PP: 491, Q: 77, Tla: 1,896. Favourite: Sprinkler. Owners: Mr. B. Deepak Rai, Mr. Prem Menon, Mrs. Anita Shanmugam & Mrs. Indra Prem Menon. Trainer: Sebastian.

3 DHARMAPURI PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only

The Hindu is the leading tipster

Mr. H. Kamal Khan and Mr. Masood Khan of The Hindu tipped 95 winners to emerge as the leading tipster.

4 DHARMAPURI PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms): LADY LOVE (Jagadeesh) 1, Glorious Wind (Brisson) 2, Platini (P. Trevor) 3 and Victoria's Secret (Ran) 4. 13/4, lmk, and 1-1/2, Im, 14.93s, 82 (w), 7, 9 and 14 (p), SHIP: 59, PP: 405, Q: 150, Tla: 1,269. Favourite: Desert King. Owner: Mr. H. Thambusamy. Trainer: Krishna.

5 DHARMAPURI PLATE (DIV. III), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms): CHENNAI CHIC (Umesh) 1, Druf's Brew (Deepak Singh) 2, Cotton Hall (S. Manohar) 3 and Star Imperial (Giesan) 4. 5/4-2, 2-1/4 and 2-1/4, Im, 13.74s, 87 (w), 7, 16 and 20 (p), SHIP: 22, PP: 23, Q: 17, Tla: 400. Favourite: Chennai Chic. Owners: Mr. Narasimha Reddy, Mrs. Malathi Reddy & Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Mandanna.

6 END OF THE SEASON CUP (1,400m), rated 60 to 85: HAVELOCK PRINCE (Deepak

Singh) 1, Vision Of Romance (Umesh) 2, Saloro Ridge (Ashad Alam) 3 and J. Gansby (R. Marshall) 4. 2-1/2, snk and 8-1/2, Im, 25.91s, TP: (w), 5, 6 and 7 (p), SHIP: 10, PP: 586, Q: 81, Tla: 2,302. Favourite: Vision Of Romance. Owner: Mrs. Beena Mahesh. Trainer: Vishesh.

7 THANK YOU ALL CUP (1,200m), 7 and 6 over: QUEEN OF CLUBS (Trevor) 1, Academus (Alaf Hussain) 2, Noble Tune (Jagadeesh) 3 and Crown Of Stars (Khan) 4. Lnk, 4 and 1-1/4, Im, 12.88s, 87 (w), 8, 10 and 9 (p), SHIP: 75, PP: 159, Q: 63, Tla: 762. Favourite: Crown Of Stars. Owners: Mr. M. Pushparaj, Mr. R. Prabu and Mr. V. Sarish Kumar. Trainer: Karthik.

8 KARAICAL PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65: STEVE MCQUEEN (Saddam) 1, Icons Dream (Iran) 2, Country's Tigress (J. Paswan) 3 and Next Move (Brisson) 4. 1/2, 1-1/4 and 1-1/2, Im, 13.76s, 81 (w), 5, 5 and 5 (p), SHIP: 22, PP: 36, Q: 24, Tla: 240. Favourite: Steve McQueen. Owners: Mrs. Begum Mahfoza Ali Khan, Mr. T. Karumkaran, Mr. Vikram D. Joshi & Mr. G. Suryamurthy. Trainer: Fahad.

9 TREBLE: 6: 7548 (214 kts), 60: 81,288 (105 kts).

Vanspal saves CCFC's blushes

His 87th-minute strike helps the team share honours with Indian Bank

S. DIPAK RAGAV CHENNAI

Defending champion Chennai City FC played out a 2-2 draw against Indian Bank in the opening fixture of the Chennai Football Association senior division league at the Nehru stadium on Monday.

Chennai City went ahead as early as the seventh minute when A. Beautin headed home a free-kick from Sarath Kumar. With Indian Bank struggling to hold on to the ball in the midfield, Chennai City dominated possession. Chennai City had its second opportunity when Alexander Romario sent in a perfect cross from the right wing to Beautin but the latter failed to connect

properly. Just before half-time, Indian Bank drew level through a penalty after Sarath handled the ball. Immanuel converted from the spot.

In the second half, the Bank side went ahead as Elavarasan scored off a deflection. However, Chennai City salvaged a point through Edwin Sydney Vanspal who found the target in the 87th minute.

In another match, Arrows FC and Income Tax played out a goalless draw.

The results: Chennai City FC 2 (Beautin 7, Edwin Sydney Vanspal 87) drew with Indian Bank 2 (Immanuel 43, Elavarasan 51). Arrows 0 drew with Income Tax 0.



Pulling away: Edwin Sydney Vanspal weaves past his markers. •K. PICHUMANI

Syed scalps six



M. Syed Ibrahim (Dorairaj Memorial, six for 39).



M. Syed Ibrahim (Dorairaj Memorial, six for 39).

CHENNAI: M. Syed Ibrahim's six-wicket haul set up a three-wicket win for Dorairaj Memorial against Triplicane RC in the TNCA fifth division B-zone recently.

The scores: V-A: Kamyuth 236 in 47 overs (J. Karthikeyan 69, R. Shajin 67, S. Sunish 32, Vinit Panwar four for 68, Bharat Kumar Sahoo three for 65) bt IAF (Tbm) 160 in 38.4 overs (Bharat Kumar Sahoo 52, Vinit Panwar 34, G. Godson five for 49, V. Krishnaji three for 41).

V-B: Air India 231 in 48.4 overs (S. Sanjay 59, G.R. Mohamed Ashif 39, S. R. Balaji 35, A. Arivakaran three for 76) lost to Kohinoor XI 234 for seven in 48.2 overs (N. Ananda Krishnan 74 n.o., M. Ravegan 60, R. Abishek five for 45).

TANGEDCO 189 in 45.1 overs (N. Shyam Prasad 68 n.o., V. Prabhakaran 32, S. Rajesh five for 56, A.G. Balu four for 50) bt Companions 178 in 42.2 overs (S. Rajesh 31, A.G. Balu 31, Shyam Prasad four for 50, Muthukumar three for 46). Egnore Excelsiors 275 for nine in 50 overs (M. Aravindh

57, P. Ponmari Muthu 56, S. Neelanarayanan 55, G. Veera Venkataratnam 40, N. Sathvik Athmaranam five for 71) bt Indian Oil 124 in 32.5 overs (P. Ponmari Muthu four for 20, G. Venkataratnam three for 28).

Triplacane RC 174 in 42.3 overs (N. Sai Prasad Reddy 57, M. Syed Ibrahim six for 39, S. Vamsath Krishnan three for 50) lost to Dorairaj Memorial 175 for seven in 37.1 overs (M. Adithya 64, A. V. Vignesh four for 49). V-D: Veeprey 138 in 47.5 overs (S. Mahenthiran four for 36) lost to Universal 139 for three in 31.1 overs (P. Pandiyan 64).

NUC 182 in 43.4 overs (R. Yogesh Mahadevan 42, S. Mohammed Azarudeen five for 51, S. Prakash three for 17) bt Friends XI 159 in 34 overs (K. Sidharth 21, B. Balaji 45, N.S. Kumaraguru four for 55, Kiran Suresh three for 32).

Grove 246 in 49.2 overs (B. Jeswin Bradman 89, T. Siddhartha 71, M. Hariharakrishna 63, M. Dinesh Kumar six for 60) bt TCC 105 in 26 overs (M. Saravanan 34 n.o., S. Terance three for 36, B. Yokeshwaran three for 26).

FAITH

Onus on individuals

Scriptures and sacred texts show that great thinkers, realised souls and the devout saints have tried to reconcile the infinite variety and change in the universe with what they have intuitively felt as something that is stable, steady and unchanging. But what is most appealing in these texts, opinions or records from the past is the total absence of dogma, pointed out Velukkudi Sri Krishnan in a discourse. Though the strongly felt views and ideas are fervently expressed, the choice to accept or reject is left to the individual thinker.

Even Nammazhwar, who is acclaimed for his exceptional yoga, jnana and bhakti, and whose hymns are on a par with the Vedas, is humble when expressing truths that are universally valid. It is held that the Lord had exclusively granted him the vision of the many Divya Desas and had inspired him to sing soul stirring hymns from the depths of his experiences. He is very clear about the Supreme Lord, the state of the jivatma, the way for the jivatma to attain the Lord, the hurdles that are likely to prevent this, and the ways to overcome the difficulties. He firmly asserts that the ultimate goal to be attained is Lord Narayana and that seeking His feet in total surrender is the only sure route. This is available to all, he says. Such is the Lord's compassion that He will rescue every jivatma caught in the depths of samsara and grant salvation even as He rescued Bhuv Dev from the deep ocean with His powerful tusks during Varaha avatar. He wishes to share this message which he claims is his humble finding.

In a similar vein, Madhurakavi Azhwar, known for his exclusive Nammazhwar bhakti, states that to him the very name of Nammazhwar is the essence of sweetness and honey. The onus of evaluating the worth of the legacy bequeathed by great souls lies with posterity.



Never-say-die spirit: Vikram Agnihotri, who is the first from India to get a licence for driving with his feet, believes in overcoming the challenges. ■ RAYAN ROZARIO

Vikram – an inspiration to many

Amputated hands don't stop him from pursuing his dreams

DESERT STORM

RAYAN ROZARIO
BIRMAR

Rally driver Vikram Agnihotri has no hands. It does not matter much for him as he believes his feet will do the magic on the wheel on his maiden venture in the Maruti Suzuki Desert Storm 2018 which began here on Monday.

It was not a great day for the 47-year-old from Indore and his co-driver and friend Ankit on the opening day but they termed it a great experience.

The former has come a long way in life and it is all about grit and determination that has seen him driving on the desert, considered to be the most difficult to even the best of drivers.

Incidentally, Vikram is the first from India to get a licence for driving with his feet. He had to run from pillar to post for close to two years and pass several tests before obtaining it last year. He was also instrumental in

the Motor Vehicle Act being amended accordingly.

A post graduate in Economics, Vikram came in contact with a high tension wire while playing at his friend's terrace top. He was only seven then but it turned out to be tragic for him and the family. "My hands were charred and had to be amputated but luckily I survived because I had my feet off the floor. I did not realise what was happening then but my parents motivated me and got me on my feet," he said.

"My parents gave me the impression that nothing had gone wrong and there's more to life," he added.

Vikram went to school like any other child, learnt a bit of football and swimming, and kept himself occupied. But a chance visit to Germany in the 80s changed the course of his life.

"My father was an IPS officer and on a deputation with the foreign ministry. So we had to be in London for two years and another four in Germany. There I met a gentleman called Franz. He

was born without hands but he made small useful gadgets for people with such difficulties."

On his return to India, Vikram drew inspiration from it and decided to make the best use of his feet – in a car. He picked up a Celerio automatic and had a go at it. "I did not go for an expensive one because I wasn't sure if I would get the licence."

"Lots of people laughed at my decision and asked me why drive at 45, but I fought all odds. Today I am a happy man," he said.

Vikram's first race outing was at the Malwa Adventure in Indore.

"An official there gave me an invite and I grabbed it and won the amateur class. The second came my way through Central Motorsports. We lost out by two minutes," he added.

The Desert Storm is his third rally and he believes in facing challenges. "Because life without challenges is going to be boring. I look forward to more of it."

Santosh satisfied with his Dakar showing

'Desert Storm will be tough and reaching the podium will be a challenge'

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

After taking part in another gruelling Dakar rally early in the year, C.S. Santosh is currently competing in the Desert Storm in Rajasthan. He talks about his career, his Dakar outings and more.

Excerpts:

On your best finish at Dakar. Talk us through the difference between 2015 and 2018 campaigns.

2015 was one of the most crucial years of my career, a turning point in my life. I participated in the Dakar Rally, the first Indian to do so, and then going on to finish it on my very first attempt was indeed special. So it was

great on many fronts.

This year, in 2018, my aim was to be competitive and challenge the best in the world. I achieved that goal twice with stage times in the top 15 and then in the top 20. This was a very difficult Dakar and I made it all the way to finish 35th overall despite my share of troubles.

Your preparations for Desert Storm 2018

Desert Storm is one of my favourite rallies in India and I look forward to it every year. This year I'm working to do better improving my speed. The competition, which includes international riders, as also stepped up this year.



Priority: C.S. Santosh says his aim this year is to be competitive and challenge the best. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

So it will be tough and to reach the podium a challenge. Our entire team at Hero MotoSports is working towards it.

Can you talk about the challenge and the adrenaline of racing a clock than competitors?

Racing the clock is unique as

you battle against yourself. Racing for over five days or two weeks takes a lot of concentration and effort, to be able to sustain speed and performance every single day.

What are the areas that you can improve?

My training is well rounded and I train on and off the bike. I try and ride as much as I can during the week. I'm always assessing the areas that I need to improve upon and then work on it. It's a never-ending process. I try to bridge the gap with my competition since most guys I race against started out at a very young age.

Ronaldo scorches Girona

APP & REUTERS
MADRID

Cristiano Ronaldo continued his scorching scoring run by bagging four goals in Real Madrid's hugely entertaining 6-1 La Liga win over Girona on Sunday.

Ronaldo has now netted 22 times in the league this season, trailing Lionel Messi by just three goals.

The results: La Liga: Villarreal 2 (Unal 82, 90+), Real Madrid 1 (Griezmann 20-; Celta Vigo 0 drew with Malaga 0; Real Madrid 6 (Ronaldo 11, 48, 64, 90+), Lucas 59, Bale 86) at Girona 3 (Suarez 29, 67, Joaquin 88); Barcelona 2 (Alcaraz 8, Messi 30) at Athletic Bilbao 0.

Serie A: Lazio 1 (Lucas 16) drew with Bologna 1 (Verdi 3); Napoli 1 (Abiel 72) beat Genoa 0.

Bundesliga: Cologne 2 (Osaka 9, Zoller 69) Bayer Leverkusen 0; RB Leipzig 2 (Keita 37, Werner 56) beat Bayern Munich 1 (Wagner 12).

Jithin gives Kerala a flying start

Defending champion Bengal races past Manipur

SANTOSH TROPHY

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Kerala made a flying start to its campaign in the National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy drubbing Chandigarh 5-1 in its Group A league match here on Monday.

In the other match in the same group, defending champion Bengal outclassed former champion Manipur 3-0.

For five-time champion Kerala young M.S. Jithin scored twice while Sajith Pouluse, V.K. Afzal and V.S. Sreekanth joined in a goal each. Vishal Sharma got the lone goal for Chandigarh.

Playing with a two-man attack, Kerala struck early as Jithin, who made it to the side through the under-21 quota, converted a pass from S. Seesan.

Kerala doubled the lead in the 18th minute through Sa-



Sumit Das celebrates after scoring. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

jith Pouluse.

Kerala made it 3-0 by the 49th minute when Jithin set up striker Afzal with another good assist.

Kerala piled on Chandigarh's misery as Jithin scored his second and the team's

fourth in the 51st minute. Substitute Sreekanth completed the formalities in the 77th minute seeing his snap attempt going in after hitting the post.

Bengal also took an early lead, Sumit Das finding the net in the seventh minute after captain Jitin Murnu's header on a Tirthankar Sarkar corner came off the crosspiece.

Bengal doubled the tally in the 15th minute, Das guiding home a pass from up-front colleague Bidyasar Singh.

Bengal completed the scoring process in the 82nd minute when Bidyasar found the target off a nice volley.

The results: Kerala 5 (M.S. Jithin 11, 51; Sajith Pouluse 18, V.K. Afzal 49, Sreekanth 77) beat Chandigarh 1 (Vishal Sharma 88).

Bengal 3 (Sumit Das 7, 15; Bidyasar Singh 82) beat Manipur 0.

Sahaj Grover does it easily



Sahaj Grover. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPORTS BUREAU
PORT ELIZABETH

Top-seeded Grandmaster Sahaj Grover produced a strong finish to win the 2018 Broadwalk Pearson Open chess tournament here on Sunday.

In the ninth and final round of this 10-player round-robin event, the 22-year-old defeated Malawi's Joseph Mwale in 63 moves to aggregate 7.5 points. Daniel Cadwey of South Africa finished second with 6.5.

After two draws, Grover won six out of the remaining seven rounds, including the last four.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. M/C-206/ISLR/SLRD/TN66 of 19.03.2018
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Chennai Division, Southern Railway invites sealed tenders for testing of parcels space in SLR compartments (two luggage compartments combined together as a single unit) of various Mail/Express trains for Transportation of Parcels for a period of five years.

Tender Schedule:

S.No.	Description	Date and Time
1	Last date for issue of Tender form	18.04.2018 upto 17.00 hrs.
2	Last date of submission of Tender	19.04.2018 upto 11.00 hrs.
3	Date and time of opening of tender	18.04.2018 at 11.30 hrs.

EMD per single unit of two luggage compartments combined together is ₹2,00,000 and Cost of Tender form for each single unit is ₹1,180/-. For related information about the tender notice, tender documents together with terms and conditions, kindly download from the following website: <http://www.sr.indianrailways.gov.in>. Tender without DD for EMD and cost of tender form will be rejected. If the date of submission and opening of tenders happens to be declared as holiday, the same will be on the next working day.

For enquiry/clarification, if any, please contact office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Chennai Division, Southern Railway at Divisional Manager's Office, 2nd Floor, NGO Annexe, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003. Telephone Number: 244-2894/289.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager,
Chennai Division, Chennai - 600 003.

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Kolkata's Pride
DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF TPWS

Dy. CSTE/C-II, Metro Railway/Kolkata, Metro Rail Bhavan, 33/1, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700071 for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender under to open on 20.04.2018 at 15.00 hrs. for the following work: Name of work: Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of TPWS on board equipment in new rakes of Metro Railway, Kolkata. Tender Value: ₹ 17,86,32,269.26. Earnest Money: ₹ 10,44,170/-; Tender Document: ₹ 10,000/-. Completion Period: 24 months. The tender can be obtained at website: www.iirps.gov.in. The tender/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IIRPS Portal. Only registered tender/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant papers must be submitted at the time of participating in e-Tender. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Open Tender Notice No. : S&T/Work/19-2018 Dated : 16.03.2018

FASTER SAFER SMOOTHER CLEANER

CHITTARANJAN
LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
CORROGUNDUM

No. COS/CLW/KOL-E-Procurement/ CORROGUNDUM Dated-15-03-2018. The following Corrogonum of E-Tender is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The prospective bidders are requested to look up the website www.iirps.gov.in. These are E-Tenders; manual offers bid for these tenders will not be accepted under any circumstances, only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website: www.iirps.gov.in; TENDER NO. PC/M/PC/AC/ANC/W dated 13-02-2018; DETAILS OF PARTICULAR: Opening date: FROM 16-03-2018; TO: 09-04-2018. Principal Chief Material Manager Alankanda-066 CLW/Kolkata

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No. MAS/EGS/Coaching/ET/March 2018/01

The Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Coaching, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, IV Floor, NGO Annexe, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE Open Tender for the E-Tender M.E.28/ISLR/SLRD/TN66 of 19.03.2018 for the following work as per Tender Notice issued in our E-Tender portal www.iirps.gov.in. The bidders intending to apply for E-Tender for Work in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the aforesaid E-Tender portal and only online tenders will be accepted. The payment towards cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made only through online mode like net banking, debit/credit card, available on IIRPS portal. It is the responsibility of the Tenderer/Contractor to obtain necessary Digital Signature Certificates for participating in the E-Tender.

E-TENDER NO. [1] M.E.28/ISLR/SLRD/TN66 of 19.03.2018

[2] M.E.28/ISLR/SLRD/TN66 of 19.03.2018

NAME OF THE WORK : (1) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for maintenance of out of warranty Hsist make 25kVA Inverters fitted in the Roof Mounted AC coaches of Southern Railway for a period of two years. (2) Chennai Division: Replenishment of 28 nos. Shatabdi coaches under project S&T/Work/19-2018.

APPROXIMATE COST OF TENDER WORK : (1) ₹5,14,17,792/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Fourteen Lakhs Seventy thousand seven hundred and ninety two only) (2) ₹44,26,272/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy two only)

EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT : (1) ₹47,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs Seven Thousand and Ninety only) (2) ₹86,50,000/- (Rupees Eighty Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty only)

TENDER BOOKLET COST : (1) ₹11,200/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand and Two Hundred only) (Basic cost ₹10,000/- and GST @12% of Basic cost i.e. ₹1,200/-) (Total ₹11,200/-) (SGST 6% + CGST 6%)

(2) ₹13,360/- (Rupees Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty only) Basic cost ₹12,000/- and GST @12% of ₹12,000/- = ₹1,360/- (SGST 6% + CGST 6%)

HSN FOR TENDER BOOKLET COST 4811

PERIOD OF COMPLETION

(1) 24 months from the date of issue of LOA (2) Two months from the date of issue of LOA

TENDER CLOSING DATE AND TIME

(1) 19-04-2018 15:00 HOURS (2) 18-04-2018 15:00 HOURS

1. The details of approximate cost of tender work, EMD, Tender Booklet cost, the details of bid submission are furnished in the aforesaid E-portal.

2. The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.

3. GST rates applicable from time to time will apply for the E-Tender.

Chief Engineer, Coaching, Chennai Division, Chennai - 3.

THE HINDU

Air/Other Surcharge, as applicable:
New Delhi - Rs. 15.00, Port Blair - Rs. 11.00, Colombo - Rs. 16.00 and Mumbai & onward - Rs. 2.00

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the following work: 1. E-Tender No. : ECR-CAO-CON-S-ETN-83-17-18. Name of work: Construction of Konark Pivotal siding between Jambura & Bokaro Normal station on deposit lines. Approx. cost of the work in (₹) : 2,32,72,201.84. Cost of tender form in (₹) : 10,000/-. Earnest money in (₹) : 12,86,307/-. Period of work completion: 15 (fifteen) months. 2. E-Tender No. : ECR-CAO-CON-S-ETN-85-17-18. Name of work: Conducting "Final location survey" (Approx. 34 Km length). Provision of Location, Yard plans, Soil investigation, Design and drawings of ROR Major bridges, Minor bridges, R&B and all relevant bridges for ROR line in DNGC Railway line to avoid surface crossing at GOMC along with Dhanbar-Chandrapur bypass line to connect Malda-Tel. By ROR line. Approx. cost of the work in (₹) : (₹) 60,85,87.54. Cost of tender form in (₹) : 5,000/-. Earnest money in (₹) : 1,76,140/-. Period of work completion : (04) Four Months. 3. Date and time for closing of tender : 20.04.2018 at 15.30 hrs. Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Counter fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website <http://www.iirps.gov.in>. Note : Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.iirps.gov.in> at least 15 days before last date of closing of tender to obtain complete information in connection with the tender.

You may also call us at Toll Free 1800 3000 1070 or write to us at ecr@ecr.indianrailways.gov.in

PR1908/CONT/74

CHITTARANJAN
LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
CORROGUNDUM

No. COS/CLW/KOL-E-Procurement/ CORROGUNDUM Dated-15-03-2018. The following Corrogonum of E-Tender is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The prospective bidders are requested to look up the website www.iirps.gov.in. These are E-Tenders; manual offers bid for these tenders will not be accepted under any circumstances, only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website: www.iirps.gov.in; TENDER NO. PC/M/PC/AC/ANC/W dated 13-02-2018; DETAILS OF PARTICULAR: Opening date: FROM 16-03-2018; TO: 09-04-2018. Principal Chief Material Manager Alankanda-066 CLW/Kolkata

WESTERN RAILWAY, DAHOD

TENDER NOTICE FOR STRIPPING, FITTING & WELDING OF WAGON COMPONENTS AND PATCHES DURING POH ACTIVITY

Tender No. M247 MECH. TENDER17-18-5R1, Date: 15.03.2018 (1) Name of Work: Stripping, Fitting & Welding of Wagon Components and Patches during POH activity. (2) Approximate Cost of Work: ₹ 1,09,03,859.89/- (3) Earnest Money to be Deposited: ₹ 2,04,432/- (4) Date & Time for Submission of tender & Opening of tender: To be submitted on 19.04.2018 before 15.00 hrs. and will be opened on same date at 15.30 hrs. (5) Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.iirps.gov.in>. Note : Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.iirps.gov.in> at least 15 days before last date of closing of tender to obtain complete information in connection with the tender.

For enquiry/clarification, if any, please contact office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Chennai Division, Southern Railway at Divisional Manager's Office, 2nd Floor, NGO Annexe, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003. Telephone Number: 244-2894/289.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager,
Chennai Division, Chennai - 600 003.

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Open Tender Notice No. : S&T/Work/19-2018 Dated : 16.03.2018

FASTER SAFER SMOOTHER CLEANER

CHITTARANJAN
LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
CORROGUNDUM

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LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
CORROGUNDUM

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FASTER SAFER SMOOTHER CLEANER

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IN BRIEF



Madhuri takes Sridevi's place in upcoming film

MUMBAI Madhuri Dixit has been cast in a role that was to be played by Sridevi in Abhishek Varman's new film project. "Abhishek Varman's next film was very close to mom's heart... Dad, Khushi and I are thankful to Madhuri for now being a part of this beautiful film," Janhvi, daughter of late actor Sridevi, posted on Instagram on Monday. IANS



U.S. boy shoots sister in quarrel over remote

WASHINGTON A nine-year-old boy fatally shot his sister, 13, in the U.S. state of Mississippi following an argument about a video game remote controller, local media reported Monday. The tragedy took place Saturday when the girl refused to give up the controller, police said. She died on Sunday. AFP



Vaping may lead to fatty liver disease: study

LOS ANGELES Using electronic cigarettes may lead to the accumulation of fat in the liver, a study on mice exposed to the devices suggests. The study was presented at the Endocrine Society's annual meeting in Chicago. Researchers used RNA sequence analysis to study the liver samples collected from mice exposed to e-cigarettes. PTI

Saving Seychelles' coral reefs

Fragments are nurtured in underwater nurseries and, later, transferred to a marine park

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEAU VALLON

Beneath the crystal-clear waters of the Indian Ocean island nation of the Seychelles, a fight is on to save the coral reefs that shelter a range of creatures from climate change.

The fragile reefs act both as a protective barrier for coastlines and an attraction for the tourists who keep the country's economy going. But the reefs are also one of the first victims of rising ocean temperatures.

The Seychelles in some areas lost up to 90% of its coral reefs in 1998 in an environmental event known as bleaching, where coral in warming waters expel the colourful algae that live within their skeletons and, without their nutrients, starve. Another bleaching event occurred in 2016 after the reefs had partly recovered, said David Rowat, chairman of the Marine Conservation Society Seychelles.

With further threats including overfishing and pollution, coral reefs around the world will reach their tipping point before the end of the century, disappearing more quickly than they can restore themselves, according to a study published in the journal *Science* last month.



In safe hands: A box of nursery-grown coral is given to a diver off the coast of Praslin, where coral is being reintroduced, in the Seychelles islands. *AP/THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Restoration projects

The Seychelles government this year, announced a pioneering deal where it swapped part of its sovereign debt for investment in marine protection areas.

Already, conservationists have launched a number of

coral reef restoration projects around the nation's 115 islands. In one, more than 50,000 coral fragments have been nurtured and transplanted by a local charity, Nature Seychelles, in what the organisation calls the world's largest coral restoration program.

The Marine Conservation Society has both land and ocean-based coral nursery

sites. Tiny coral fragments, once collected from the sea floor, are nurtured in tanks and, then, transferred to an underwater "rope nursery" or improvised skeleton.

"When the corals are going to reach a suitable size, when they are big enough, they are going to be outplanted back on the reef," said project leader Chloe Pozas said.

Off the island of Curieuse, the Seychelles National Park Authority has been moving corals grown in another rope nursery.

Divers delicately transfer the tiny corals to a degraded reef in a national marine park, and then attach them using non-toxic epoxy resin.

Faster recovery

After the 2016 bleaching event, experts noticed that some corals were more resilient than others. Those "super corals" were chosen for regrowth and transplanting. "Restoration is really only a tool to try to help the reef to recover faster, especially because coral bleaching is projected to happen annually by 2050," Ms. Pozas said.

Those whose livelihoods rely on tourism are watching the efforts with interest.

"Obviously, we have divers and snorkellers and if we can continue to have healthy reefs and lots of fish, they do lots of dives, the dive centre makes more business, the government gets more tax money and everybody is happy," said Glynis Rowat, who has managed one of the oldest diving centers in Beau Vallon for over 30 years.

British teacher wins \$1 million award

Zafirakou's commitment recognised

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

Andria Zafirakou, who works in a school in one of Britain's poorest areas, has won the Global Teacher Prize of \$1 million (\$6.5 crore) for 2018.

The arts and textiles teacher from the Alperton Community College of Brent, an inner-city school in London, was among 10 finalists from around the globe for the annual award. Thirty thousand candidates were in the running.

Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum and British Prime Minister Theresa May were among the first to congratulate her. "Congratulations to Andria Zafirakou for having won the Global Teacher award," tweeted Sheikh Mohammed after handing her the prize on Sunday.

Diverse class

Brent, where Ms. Zafirakou teaches, is considered an ethnically diverse and disadvantaged area and many of her students come from impoverished homes.

The area is also rife with gang violence and Ms. Zafi-



Andria Zafirakou. *AFP

rakou faced "a daunting task when she joined the school", the organisers said.

"But throughout the school and on the streets she is driving change" working "closely with the police to identify potential issues and (gang) recruiters."

She even learnt the basics of some of the 35 languages spoken at the school to communicate with parents and students. The Dubai-based Varkey Foundation organised the event, the fourth time it has handed out the prize for best teacher. The winner receives \$1 million which will be paid in equal instalments over 10 years on one condition - she or he continues teaching for at least five years.

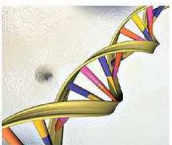
Global gene project to study Indians

Sequencing will help to examine links between DNA variations and disease

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

A U.K.-based genomics data platform and an American genetics company are collaborating to create the world's largest project of its kind to sequence Indian population.

Cambridge-headquartered Global Gene Corp (GGC) said its new multi-year tie-up with Regeneron Genetics Center (RGC), a substi-



diary of New York-based Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, is aimed at finding diagnostic

methods and therapies for rare diseases.

Sumit Jamuar, chairman and CEO of GGC, explained that the "genomics revolution" is crucial to the delivery of improved healthcare for all. The project would help to solve the problem of genomic data bias - where 81% of genomics data comes from Caucasian populations of European ancestry; India

with 1.3 billion people represents 20% of the world's population, yet its population contributes less than 1% of genomic data and insights.

Genomic sequencing data will be paired with de-identified medical records from consenting patients to examine links between human genetic variations and disease in these populations.

Uber suspends self-driving car tests after fatal accident

REUTERS
SAN FRANCISCO

A woman died of her injuries after being struck by a Uber self-driving vehicle in Arizona, police said on Monday, and the ride hailing company said it had suspended its autonomous vehicle program across the United States and Canada.

The accident in Tempe, Arizona, marked the first



pedestrian fatality from a self-driving vehicle, which are still being tested around the globe, and could derail efforts to fast-track the intro-

duction of the new technology.

At the time of the accident, which occurred overnight Sunday to Monday, the car was in autonomous mode with a vehicle operator behind the wheel, Tempe police said. In a tweet, Uber expressed its condolences and said the company was fully cooperating with authorities.

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